TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

A Monthly Summary of Business and Economic Conditions in Texas

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH : THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

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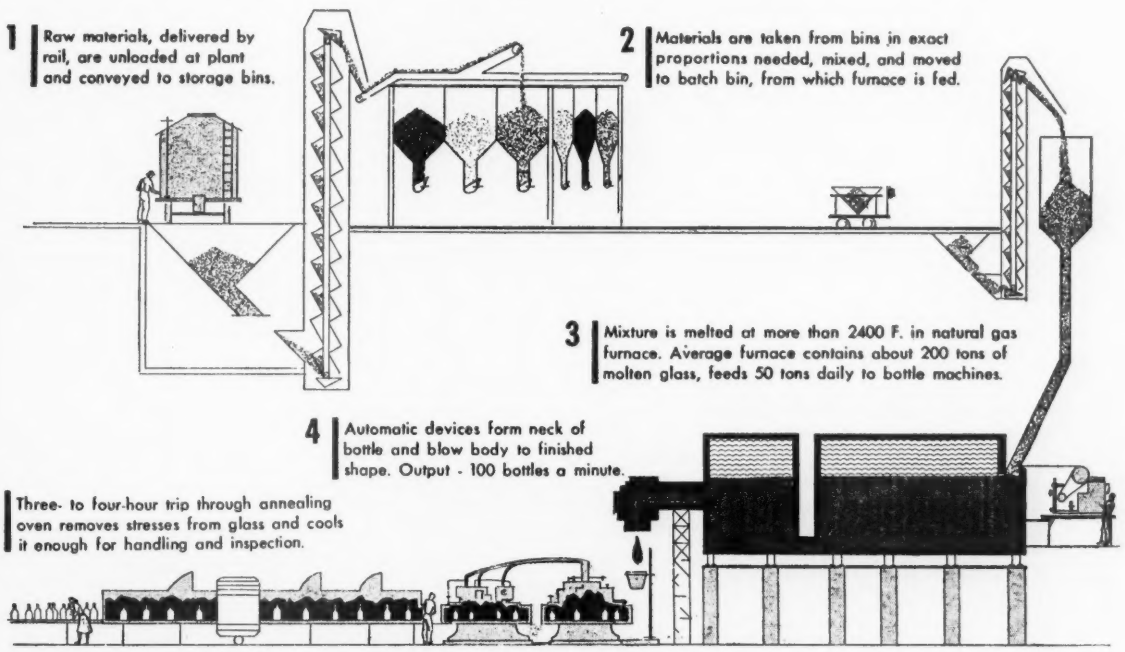
Texas Glassmaking – Today

Glass plants in Texas are converting sand and chemicals into products ranging from shower enclosures to Davy Crockett tumblers. For this month's special report turn to page 14.


1 Raw materials, delivered by rail, are unloaded at plant and conveyed to storage bins.
2 Materials are taken from bins in exact proportions needed, mixed, and moved to batch bin, from which furnace is fed.
3 Mixture is melted at more than 2400 F. in natural gas furnace. Average furnace contains about 200 tons of molten glass, feeds 50 tons daily to bottle machines.
4 Automatic devices form neck of bottle and blow body to finished shape. Output - 100 bottles a minute.
5 Three- to four-hour trip through annealing oven removes stresses from glass and cools it enough for handling and inspection.

A glistening stream of white powder—sand, lime, soda ash—is melted into a white-hot river of molten glass under flaming jets of natural gas. The wall that cuts across the upper part of the furnace traps impurities that float on the surface. The second chamber of the furnace is used for further purification. As the glass leaves the furnace, heated to insure the right viscosity for forming, it may travel as fast as 2 miles an hour. Automatic devices feed the lava-like stream into presses or spinning molds. Before the turn of the century, all glass was blown or drawn by hand. Today such equipment as the Corning ribbon machine can turn out electric light bulbs at the rate of 1,000 a minute.

The Business Situation in Texas

Business activity in Texas during July showed a mild decline from the levels of June, giving still further support to the hypothesis that the peak of the present wave of expansion in Texas business has probably been reached. The index of business activity compiled by the Bureau of Business Research declined from 168 in June to 165 in July, after a drop of one point between May and June. The peak of the current rise was reached in March, and since that date there has been very little change in the index, although the general trend has been downward.

Five of the eight component series included in the index of business activity registered a decline in July. Two of the series showed no change, and only one increased. Changes in the individual series are shown in the following table.

INDEX OF TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND COMPONENT SERIES

(Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1947–49 = 100)

Index	Weight	July 1955	June 1954	Percent change
INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY (COMPOSITE)	100.0	165*	168*	— 2
Retail sales, deflated	46.8	158*	158*	0
Industrial electric power consumption	14.6	254*	264*	— 4
Miscellaneous freight carloadings	10.0	95	97	— 2
Urban building permits issued, deflated	9.4	146*	146*	0
Crude petroleum production	8.1	119*	121*	— 2
Ordinary life insurance sales, deflated	4.2	201	215	— 7
Crude oil runs to stills	3.9	135	136	— 1
Total electric power consumption	3.0	258*	256*	+ 1

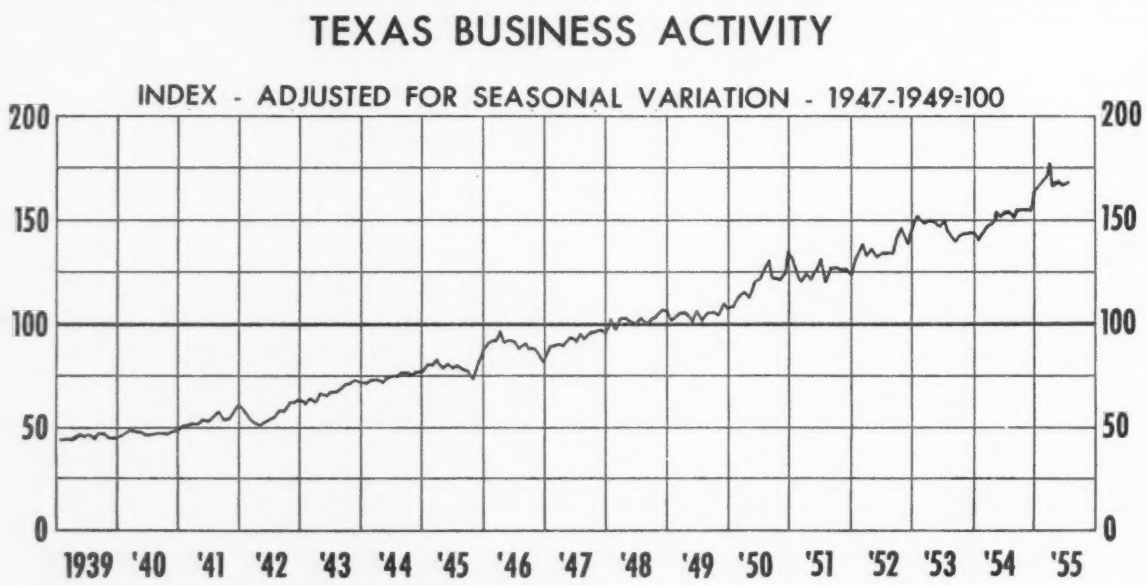
*Preliminary.

It should be emphasized that the decline reflected in these series is not the normal seasonal decline associated with the regular slowing down of business during the summer. All of the indexes compiled by the Bureau of Business Research have been adjusted for the typical seasonal variation, which means the changes reflect nonseasonal factors that are affecting the level of business. A certain amount of confusion appears to be present in many of the analyses of business conditions, due to the failure to distinguish between what is sometimes referred to as the usual summer slump and a real change in the level of activity. If a decline in activity is the normal decline that occurs every summer, this factor should be taken into account and an attempt made to determine whether or not it is more or less than the usual summer slump. The series measuring Texas business have been adjusted for this seasonal variation, so any change represents a fundamental shift in the business situation.

The composite index of business activity is the Bureau's most important measure of conditions in the state, but this barometer is supplemented by the index of bank debits. The majority of business transactions are carried out by check, so a compilation of total dollar volume of checks written serves as a measure of total economic activity. The chart on the opposite page shows the fluctuations in bank debits in the leading cities of Texas, based on data collected by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

The July value of the bank debits index declined 4% from June and was 8% above July 1954. The levelling off of the index since the first quarter of 1955 can be seen to parallel the index of business with only minor variations. These two indexes serve as the basis for the conclusion that the rise in Texas business has been definitely slowed and to a slight degree has turned down.

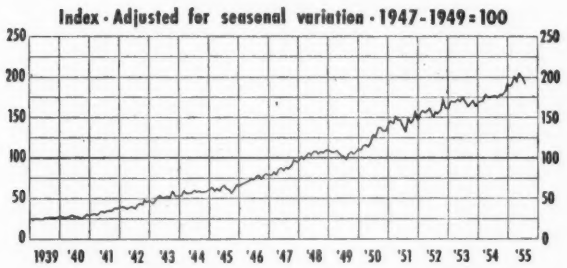
The slowing down in the expansion is more noticeable in the Texas data than in the United States data, although there is not a large enough variation between the two series to establish positively that a significant difference exists. There is some evidence in the national figures that the current boom is changing in character. It is somewhat surprising that signs of overexpansion should appear so soon in an upturn; the revival for the country as a whole was not reflected in the statistical data until the third quarter of 1954. This means that a considerable portion of



the upswing may have spent itself within one year. The fact that the recovery got under way earlier in Texas than in the remainder of the country seems to be offset by the fact that Texas business expansion may be slowing down ahead of the country as a whole.

There is some evidence that the basis for the boom in Texas business is shifting. During the rise in 1954 and the first quarter of 1955 the major impetus came from building and industrial expansion. But in the most recent months consumer spending and inventory accumulation appear to be assuming the most important role in the business situation.

Bank Debits in Texas



Data on inventories are not available for Texas business, but there is no reason to believe the situation differs greatly from the national picture. During the four quarters of 1954 the investment in business inventories declined. In the first quarter of 1955 investment in inventories increased $1.5 billion and in the second quarter $4.3 billion.

Added to the demand created by the rise in inventories is a substantial increase in consumer spending. The figures for Texas and for the United States show the same trends in this segment of the economy. Retail sales in Texas during July were 6% higher than in July 1954, with durable-goods stores reporting a greater increase than nondurable-goods stores. The increase in consumer spending has been based on an increased personal income, a reduced rate of saving, and expanded credit. The increased income has resulted from the expanded economic activity, particularly the increased investment in building and producers durable equipment, and it is a stable base for increased activity. The reduced rate of savings and the expanded credit represent a trend that has begun to raise some concern as to the future.

Approximately 6% of disposable income was saved by consumers in the United States during the first half of 1955. This is the lowest rate of saving since 1950, when the spending spree set off by the start of the Korean War sent consumer spending soaring. For the past four years savings have been approximately 8% of disposable income. This decline in the percentage saved represents more than $2 billion additional funds that could be spent for consumer goods.

An equally important source of funds for consumers is the increase in consumer credit. Between June 30, 1954, and June 30, 1955, consumer credit outstanding increased $3.8 billion, which represented additional purchasing power for the consumer-goods markets. The month of June saw an increase of $900 million. During the second quarter of 1955 the total rose $2.5 billion, the largest gain of any quarter on record. Automobile financing accounted for a major portion of this increase. The total consumer credit outstanding, $32.5 billion on June 30, 1955, far exceeds the amount outstanding at any previous time.

The greatly expanded rate of consumer borrowing has caused concern among government agencies responsible for the control of credit, and one of the outstanding features of the business situation has been the steps taken to control this expansion of credit. A more detailed discussion of these steps is given in "Finance," page 12. The fact that there is strong reason to believe that measures will be taken to prevent an inflationary expansion of credit is one of the chief justifications for the belief that the level of business has about reached its peak.

The high level of consumer demand has been a factor in stimulating further expansion of manufacturing and merchandising facilities, and these expenditures have contributed to the increase in disposable income in the hands of consumers. This is a typical spiral of expansion that occurs in every upward phase of the business cycle. And as long as businessmen believe that the demand for consumer goods will continue, they will continue to add to their facilities to supply these goods. In Texas we have felt the effects of this expansion of facilities to a greater degree than some other sections, since the rate of growth in Texas has been greater than in the country as a whole.

Under ordinary conditions the recession phase of the business cycle can be brought on by a reduction in investment expenditures when businessmen decide that further expansion of consumer demand would not be sufficient to buy all the products that could be produced. Business analysts in general believe that no severe cyclical decline will occur in the near future because the growth of the population and the rise in the standard of living of the people are sufficient to require a continued high investment in capital goods. When this reasoning is combined with the fact that more than the proportionate share of this new investment is being made in Texas, we reach the conclusion that a major contraction in business activity is unlikely.

One special type of investment that is particularly important is the building industry. In spite of the fact that the supply of certain kinds of building may catch up with the demand from time to time, fundamentally the demand for construction should continue strong. The shortages of building materials that have become important news items in the past few months are being interpreted as evidence that the demand for construction has outrun the capital facilities for supplying the product. It is reasonable to expect that the building materials industry will continue to increase its investment in Texas plants. Such expenditures will tend to keep the level of activity from falling into a major decline.

The trend of prices remains essentially unchanged from previous months. Farm prices in July declined, but this decline was more than offset by a rise in prices of industrial commodities. However, the average of all commodity prices has not yet shown any strong increase. The tremendous productive capacity of industry apparently has enabled manufacturing plants to meet all demands of consumers. In certain industries distributors have been under considerable pressure to dispose of the output of the factories. The automobile industry is a good example of this situation. As long as producers are able to turn out goods faster than they can be sold, there is little danger of any runaway rise in prices.

JOHN R. STOCKTON

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

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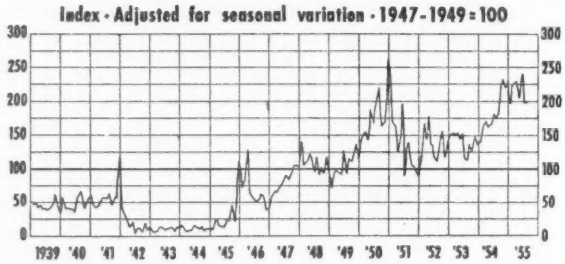
CONSTRUCTION

July building stays at June level. After adjustment for seasonal variation, July 1955 building authorized remained unchanged from the June level. July is normally expected to be 2% lower than June, and July 1955 followed the usual seasonal pattern with almost $2 million less than the $90 million worth of permits reported in June.

For the first time since the onset of the vigorous construction activity two consecutive months failed to bring any increase. Since January 1954 there has been a consistent trend of major increases broken only by slight declines. The pattern broke when July 1955 brought no recovery from the 46-point drop in June from May's near-record index (243).

Value of Building Construction Authorized in Texas



The average price per dwelling unit in Texas has declined for the second consecutive month from the high of $9,800 per unit reached in May. The decrease from May 1955 to July was 8%, but after adjustment for price changes the actual decrease was 10%. One-family houses decreased from an average $10,200 in May to $9,800 in June; July registered $9,400 per house, or 8% less than May. Duplexes averaged about $10,200 per house in July, just 1% less than June but 7% less than May.

Construction contracts increase. Value of new residential buildings started during July totalled more than $59 million, 6% over June 1955 and 30% over July 1954. In the seven-month cumulative comparison of total residential building, January–July 1955 was 31% over the same months of 1954. The only categorical decreases in the year-to-date totals were in duplexes (—58%), miscellaneous shelter (—13%), and apartment buildings (—40%). On the other hand, all other categories recorded increases ranging from 8% (dormitories) to over 150% (hotels). Other increases were 18% for one-family houses for owner occupancy and 38% for one-family houses for sale or rent.

Total nonresidential building put in place during July 1955 was almost double that of the preceding month. Large increases contributing to this 97% increase in nonresidential building occurred in manufacturing plants, almost ten times the June total, and public buildings, which were over seven times as large as during the month before. Total construction for the cumulative January–July periods rose almost a third from 1954 to 1955. Total private building in the first seven months of 1955 increased 45% from the same months of 1954. Public building increased 6%.

The Veterans Administration, after a sample study of 407,000 GI home loans across the nation, concluded that

in 1954 the average GI home cost $11,640, was sold to a 32-year old veteran earning about $480.00 a month. Mr. GI's monthly housing expenses averaged $95.15 on 26-to-30-year maturities. When this veteran is 60 years old, he will have paid over $33,000 on a house almost 30 years old (with no replacement maintenance) for principal and interest repayments on mortgages, taxes, and insurance; heat and utilities (only on such equipment as was initially installed); and maintenance costs averaging no more annually than those paid out during the first year of occupancy.

After the popular house-a-day plan and the construction of thousands of overnight subdivisions built by opportunist contractors with minimum VA specifications subside, a lesser residential building boom will still be here to stay, with a perpetual replacement market about every decade.

Many new houses were built during drouth years, some on soils that will change character after an extended wet period (for instance, residential areas built on filled-in swamps). For many houses the foundation will require costly repairs. Many houses have wiring inadequate to provide power for the constantly increasing load of electrical appliances designed for convenience and pleasure. In others, poor workmanship combined with passable but inferior materials will eventually cause costly improvements and replacements. Some houses will prove to be such an expense that homeowners may find it cheaper to lose all money that has been put into them than to pay repair bills in addition to monthly house notes.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF BUILDING AUTHORIZED

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Classification	July 1955*	January-July 1955	January-July 1954	Percent change
CONSTRUCTION CLASS	Value (thousand of dollars)			
ALL PERMITS	88,086	652,097	505,163	+ 29
New construction	79,579	582,041	452,223	+ 29
Residential buildings	46,503	394,337	298,532	+ 32
Housekeeping dwellings	45,836	388,771	294,313	+ 32
Single family dwellings	44,048	372,330	275,031	+ 35
Multiple family dwellings	1,788	16,441	19,282	— 15
Nonhousekeeping buildings	667	5,566	4,219	+ 32
Nonresidential building	33,076	187,704	153,691	+ 22
Additions, alterations, and repairs	8,507	70,056	52,942	+ 32
METROPOLITAN vs. NON-METROPOLITAN†				
ALL PERMITS	88,086	652,097	505,163	+ 29
Total metropolitan	68,280	499,540	383,374	+ 30
Central cities	56,894	412,799	328,641	+ 26
Outside central cities	11,386	86,741	54,733	+ 58
Total metropolitan	19,807	152,559	121,788	+ 25
10,000 to 50,000 population	13,918	100,688	67,034	+ 50
Less than 10,000 population	5,889	51,871	54,754	— 5

Only building for which permits were issued within the incorporated area of a city is included. Federal contracts and public housings are not included.

*Preliminary.

†As defined in the 1950 Census.

Per capita values. Average per capita building in Texas during July was $20.21, about 1% below June, 11% above the corresponding month of 1954, and 26% below the peak month of May 1955. The city registering the highest per capita spending on building was Mesquite, with $420.99. Other cities with more than $100 per capita spending in July were: Arlington, $315.91; Castle Hills (near San Antonio), $313.65; Groves, $233.85; Irving, $214.04; Richland Hills (near Fort Worth), $137.50; Benbrook, $134.14; Garland, $133.19; and Seagoville, $128.18.

Construction employment. Substantial hiring was done on construction jobs throughout the state during July, according to reports by the Texas Employment Commission. The high level of new construction activity in May has rippled outward, spreading business and jobs through virtually all the hard-goods industries. Building of highways, streets, residences, stores, factories, churches, schools, and hospitals requires increasing amounts of supplies from lumber yards; planing mills; stone, clay, and glass factories; and manufacturers of machinery and other metal products. The growing volume of wages in these industries is stimulating wholesale and retail trade and service establishments. During the first six months of 1955 the booming Texas economy also benefited by the awarding of federal construction contracts, totalling $47.5 million in value, for out-of-state work to be done in other states by Texas contractors. Federal construction to be put in place during the year in Texas reached $51.5 million by the end of June. Construction seems headed for more gains in employment. Completions bring fluctuating totals, but most of the major areas expect more starts than completions, as permits are still being issued on a stepped-up volume for new building and major repairs.

VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED

Source: Dodge Statistical Research Service

Type of construction	July 1955	January-July 1955	January-July 1954	Percent change
	Value (thousands of dols)			
NEW CONSTRUCTION	154,907	918,186	699,687	+ 31
ALL BUILDING	131,626	748,364	546,741	+ 37
Residential buildings	59,487	436,153	333,889	+ 31
Nonresidential building	72,139	312,211	212,852	+ 47
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES	23,281	169,822	152,946	+ 11

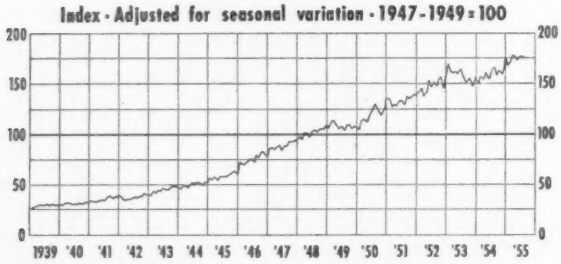
Portland cement. Production of portland cement during May 1955 increased over April by almost 5% to total over 2 million barrels but decreased in June from May by 7%. After an anticipated 2% seasonal decrease from April, May 1955 reversed itself to increase by almost 6%. However, because of the rationing system to users, cement consumed in May was a bare 396 barrels above that consumed in April 1955. May 1955 consumption fell short of the average consumption for May by about 55,500 barrels, which was probably added to scant stockpiles of dealers and manufacturers for use in June 1955 when consumption exceeded production by 13%.

JO OVERSTREET

RETAIL TRADE

Still new records. Retail sales have carried a new summer season high level well into August, despite diminished response to clearance sales. Clearances were fewer this season, since unexpectedly high sales have trimmed many stocks to lean proportions. Conventional August linen promotions and early showings of fall apparel have, however, drawn good response. Despite seasonal slackening in apparel, furniture, and housewares, these lines have continued to sell well above last year's volumes, except for

Retail Sales in Texas



men's wear other than sporting lines. Electrical appliance volume has held well above 1954, especially for cooling equipment, although prices of air conditioners were reduced substantially. Luggage, hardware, sporting goods, and outdoor equipment have sold briskly. Food sales reached their highest point for this year. Sales of automobiles were slower than in recent weeks, despite many forms of liberal price concessions and low margins; but volume held well above 1954, strengthened by record use of liberal consumer credit. Suburban stores continued to outsell downtown competition. Tourist business reached an all-time high, and resort areas reported record sales. Somewhat lower prices for foods and apparel concealed larger unit sales than were apparent. And this July had one less shopping day than July 1954.

Markets active. Buyers' preparations at the markets remained definitely above last year's level for most fall merchandise. Attendance was reported as unusually high at such showings as the New York Linens and Domestics Show, the lamp shows, the California and Chicago gift shows, the New England Curtains and Drapery Show, and the New York Leather Show. Ordering was reportedly

ESTIMATES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Type of store	Sales (mils of dols)		Percent change		
	July 1955	Jan-July 1955	July 1955 from June 1955	July 1955 from July 1954	Jan-July 1955 from Jan-July 1954
TOTAL	893.3	6,272.6	— 7	+ 6	+ 11
Durable goods	337.8	2,352.9	— 8	+ 10	+ 17
Nondurable goods	555.5	3,919.7	— 9	+ 4	+ 8

well ahead of last year's at all but the New England showing. Some furniture dealers increased purchases by as much as 30% over 1954. Interest was reported to be shifting toward higher-priced lines, with little attention given to budget-priced merchandise. Numerous shortages developed, as buyers who had bought too conservatively tried to obtain replacements. By early August buyers were already reordering fall apparel for fill-ins or broader assort-

RETAIL SALES TRENDS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Group	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change		
		July 1955 from June 1955	July 1955 from July 1954	Jan-July 1955 from Jan-July 1954
KIND OF BUSINESS				
DURABLE GOODS				
Automotive stores	361	— 6	+ 24	+ 30
Furniture and household appliance stores	177	— 5	— 2	+ 7
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	362	— 8	x	+ 13
NONDURABLE GOODS				
Apparel stores	240	— 1	+ 3	+ 5
Drug stores	214	x	+ 4	+ 6
Eating and drinking places	160	+ 2	— 3	— 1
Filling stations	1,191	— 3	+ 15	+ 17
Food stores	420	— 1	— 5	+ 2
General merchandise stores	250	— 1	+ 6	+ 8
Other retail stores	112	— 16	— 4	+ 4
CITY-SIZE CLASS (1950)				
Over 250,000	1,682	— 3	+ 10	+ 16
100,000 to 250,000	235	— 6	+ 7	+ 15
50,000 to 100,000	314	— 3	+ 8	+ 17
2,500 to 50,000	1,144	— 6	+ 12	+ 13
Under 2,500	249	— 5	— 3	+ 2

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

ments. Wholesale food has maintained strong demand. Wholesale and retail inventories have shown an overall tendency to rise, partly offset, however, by unexpectedly heavy consumer purchasing.

Income and use of credit. Personal income of most types has reached successively higher levels and continues to rise, accompanied by some of the softest credit terms yet recorded. Spending has attained new high levels but has advanced less rapidly than incomes. Consumer debt is increasing faster than repayments. Yet record consumer obligations of $32 billion constitute the smallest percentage of consumer income in the last three years. Mortgage delinquencies (about 1/6 of 1%) are the lowest on record. Financing agencies seem not to share the misgivings of some governmental institutions. It is estimated that only about 11% of total sales are made on the instalment basis. Some 55% of U. S. families have no instalment debt, according to the Federal Reserve Board 1955 Survey of Consumer Finances. However, instalment debt rose more during June than in any earlier month. Automobile loans alone increased $575 million; appliance and furniture loans went up about $85 million, much more than seasonally.

Prospects rosy. Recent mild braking on credit extension and sharper discrimination concerning loans may slow the pace somewhat. Retailers have faced successive increases in rates this year on discounts payable for cashing their instalment paper. But the cost of living remains largely stable. The agricultural outlook in the Southwest is the best in five years. Sales are rising more rapidly than inventories. Retailers clearly are headed for their largest sales year. The mid-year poll by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan indicates a high continuance of customers' borrowing and spending—more optimistic than the 1952–54 surveys. Estimates for 1955: $178 billion to $185 billion. Sales in 1954: $171 billion.

Survey of Texas trade. With 3,624 retailers reporting, July sales fell below June by 7% but bettered last July by

6%. Volume topped January–July 1954 by 11%, as compared with a national average increase of 7%. Durable goods were again in the lead, with automobile sales contributing heavily. For the first seven months durable goods in Texas were up 17%, as against 8% for nondurables.

Retail lines averaging largest gains over last July were motor vehicle dealers (+25%), filling stations (+15%), jewelry stores (+12%), department stores (+8%), general merchandise stores and hardware stores (each +6%), and shoe stores (+5%). Comparing the seven months, January–July, with the same period of 1954, largest increases were shown by motor vehicle dealers (+31%), filling stations (+17%), lumber and building materials dealers (+16%), hardware stores (+11%), jewelry stores (+10%), and furniture stores and department stores (each +9%).

Reporting by cities, 321 Texas department and apparel stores equalled June, topped last July by 5%, and stood 7% over January–July 1954. Of the 34 cities reporting, 18 topped June sales, 24 bettered July, and 24 were cumulatively ahead of January–July 1954. In the July-to-July comparison largest gains were at Lubbock (+52%), San Angelo (+43%), Port Arthur (+22%), McAllen and Tyler (each +20%), Childress and Lockhart (each +11%), Corpus Christi (+10%), Dallas (+8%), Fort Worth (+7%), and Houston, Brownwood, and El Paso (each +6%). Leaders for the first seven months of 1955 were Lubbock (+28%), McAllen (+22%), Fort Worth (+11%), Temple (+10%), Dallas (+9%), Houston and Tyler (each +8%), and Port Arthur, Abilene, and El Paso (each +7%).

Of the 42 cities reporting enough retailers of various types to be listed individually, 11 rose from June, 35 surpassed last July, and 38 exceeded January-July 1954. Topping June by best margins were Plainview (+25%), San Angelo (+7%), Brownsville and Jasper (each +5%), Greenville (+4%), and Fort Worth, Gilmer, and Victoria (each +3%). Bettering last July were Big Spring (+41%), Wichita Falls (+28%), Brownsville (+25%), McAllen (+24%), Taylor and Texarkana (each +23%), Lubbock and Paris (each +20%), Commerce (+19%), and Gilmer (+18%). Best showings for the seven months were at Big Spring (+42%), Lubbock (+35%), McAllen (+34%), Amarillo (+25%), Brownsville, Gilmer, and Texarkana (each +20%), Lampasas and Mineral Wells (each +19%), and Denison and Wichita Falls (each +18%). Numerous smaller gains were registered elsewhere.

A. HAMILTON CHUTE

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES

Classification	Number of reporting stores	Credit ratios* July 1955	Credit ratios* July 1954	Collection ratios† July 1955	Collection ratios† July 1954
ALL STORES	64	60.6	62.0	42.0	42.3
BY CITIES					
Austin	4	61.6	60.5	54.4	53.0
Cleburne	3	37.2	29.1	42.5	34.8
Dallas	6	51.3	58.7	50.1	49.2
El Paso	3	58.4	55.8	31.4	31.1
Fort Worth	3	65.4	65.2	36.6	35.7
Galveston	4	53.6	54.1	45.4	47.3
Houston	4	72.7	71.8	44.1	45.1
San Antonio	6	62.1	63.2	43.0	45.0
Waco	5	59.1	58.8	50.5	49.8
All others	26	60.0	58.0	40.2	39.1
BY TYPE OF STORE					
Department stores (over $1 million)	17	61.2	63.3	41.3	41.2
Department stores (under $1 million)	19	46.9	46.5	43.1	42.5
Dry goods and apparel stores	6	73.1	71.8	54.6	56.1
Women's specialty shops	15	57.8	57.3	42.6	44.2
Men's clothing stores	7	67.2	65.4	48.8	53.9
BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1954)					
Over $3,000,000	18	61.8	63.6	41.5	41.9
$1,500,000 to $3,000,000	3	57.2	55.0	45.5	44.1
$500,000 to $1,500,000	17	55.1	54.7	47.2	48.3
$250,000 to $500,000	11	48.0	45.1	41.3	41.3
Less than $250,000	15	47.2	45.4	42.3	42.9

*Credit sales as a percent of net sales.

†Collections during the month as a percent of accounts unpaid on the first of the month.

POSTAL RECEIPTS

City	July 1955	June 1955	July 1954	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
TOTAL*	$5,612,011	$6,311,827	$5,743,198	— 11	— 2
Alice	10,873	13,814	11,805	— 21	— 8
Bastrop	1,356	2,303	1,378	— 41	— 2
Belton	4,568	5,897	5,374	— 23	— 15
Borger	11,642	13,955	10,409	— 17	+ 12
Brady	3,284	4,471	4,035	— 27	— 19
Brownfield	6,698	7,086	6,214	— 5	+ 8
Cameron	4,016	5,826	4,601	— 31	— 13
Coleman	3,828	6,802	5,011	— 44	— 24
Crystal City	1,932	3,082	2,092	— 37	— 8
Cuero	4,263	4,066	6,650	+ 5	— 36
Edna	3,489	3,568	2,600	— 2	+ 34
El Campo	7,817	7,949	7,237	— 2	+ 8
Gainesville	10,117	13,673	13,735	— 26	— 26
Gatesville	4,028	4,486	3,627	— 10	+ 11
Gilmer	3,957	6,483	3,521	— 39	+ 12
Graham	6,369	7,053	6,239	— 10	+ 2
Granbury	1,928	2,125	1,734	— 9	+ 11
Hereford	5,767	7,614	6,174	— 24	— 7
Hillsboro	5,087	4,789	5,087	+ 6	0
Huntsville	5,677	7,760	5,752	— 27	— 1
Jacksonville	11,612	13,839	12,429	— 16	— 7
Kenedy	2,632	3,534	3,316	— 26	— 21
Kermit	4,566	5,904	4,877	— 23	— 6
Kerrville	7,991	10,674	9,016	— 25	— 11
Kingsville	9,180	12,561	9,832	— 27	— 7
Kirbyville	1,767	2,761	1,807	— 36	— 2
La Grange	4,349	3,795	3,509	+ 15	+ 24
Littlefield	4,376	5,823	5,390	— 25	— 19
Luling	3,091	4,309	3,011	— 28	+ 3
McCamey	2,293	3,740	2,623	— 39	— 13
Mission	7,198	8,222	5,409	— 12	+ 33
Pasadena	16,809	20,176	17,784	— 17	— 5
Pecos	8,397	11,016	7,941	— 24	+ 6
Pharr	4,305	4,918	3,762	— 12	+ 14
Pittsburg	2,314	2,865	2,612	— 19	— 11
Port Arthur	33,382	39,966	33,976	— 16	— 2
Raymondville	8,403	5,925	6,142	+ 42	+ 37
Snyder	8,772	10,771	8,600	— 19	+ 2
Taft	2,105	2,988	2,211	— 28	— 5
Terrell	6,877	5,698	5,175	+ 21	+ 33
Waxahachie	7,433	8,932	7,130	— 17	+ 4
Yoakum	7,909	10,989	8,927	— 28	— 11

*The total includes receipts for cities which are listed individually under "Local Business Conditions."

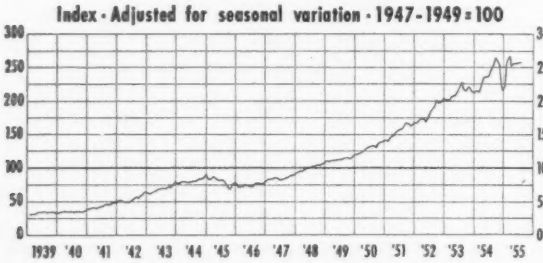
xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Aluminum shortage sparks plant expansion. Aluminum, kingpin of the U. S. light-metals industry, is in short supply. Producers are finding it increasingly hard to keep up with the brisk sales pattern, in spite of tremendous expansion of their output capacity during the past few years. Today they are boosting their plant capacities still further with another round of expansion projects.

Texas now ranks second to the state of Washington in aluminum output, and with current expansion programs

Total Electric Power Use in Texas



completed, Texas will be a close competitor for first place. While first or second ranking in the nation is not in itself important, it does point up the rapid growth of this industry in the state, for Texas produced hardly any aluminum before 1950.

Three aluminum reduction plants and one alumina plant are now operating in Texas. Alcoa manufactures ingots at Point Comfort, near Port Lavaca, and at Rockdale, in Central Texas. Reynolds Metals has alumina and reduction plants at Gregory, near Corpus Christi. Programs for increasing ingot output are now in progress at all three reduction mills, and Alcoa is planning to build a $35 million alumina processing plant near its Point Comfort facilities if a 30-foot navigation channel is dredged through Matagorda Bay. With the deepened channel, large ore vessels hauling bauxite from the Caribbean could dock at the proposed plant site.

It is unlikely, however, that Texas will soon attract more new plants. Instead, companies now manufacturing here will probably continue to expand capacity. The most important reason for this assumption is that natural gas (the major source of power) is likely to increase enough in cost to discourage the building of new mills. Furthermore, it is doubtful that aluminum manufacturers can tie

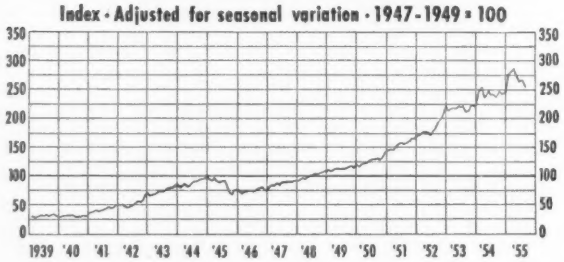
ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION

Use	Consumption (thous kw-hrs) July 1955*	June 1955*	July 1954†	Percent change July 1955 from June 1955	July 1955 from July 1954
TOTAL	2,901,110	2,684,112	2,792,940	+ 8	+ 4
Commercial	481,362	433,269	459,213	+ 11	+ 5
Industrial	1,706,814	1,703,917	1,619,494	x	+ 5
Residential	591,036	438,649	557,594	+ 35	+ 6
Other	121,898	108,277	156,639	+ 13	— 22

*Preliminary—based on reports of 10 electric power companies, leveled to Federal Power Commission estimates by the Bureau of Business Research.

†Revised to preliminary Federal Power Commission data.

Industrial Electric Power Use in Texas



down guaranteed supplies of gas at a price they consider satisfactory. Despite the rapid growth of the aluminum-consuming industries in the state, the southwestern market for aluminum is still rather meager compared to that of the Great Lakes region. Kaiser Aluminum has carefully analyzed the market and concluded that the Ohio-West Virginia-Pennsylvania-Kentucky area offers the best site for expansion. Other companies that want to go into aluminum manufacture are also known to be interested in that region. The aluminum industry, like others using an electroprocess, is power-oriented rather than market- or resource-oriented. The needs for labor are low in proportion to the amount of power required. In the United States

REFINERY STOCKS

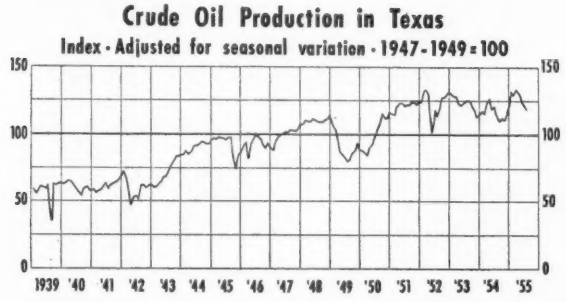
Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

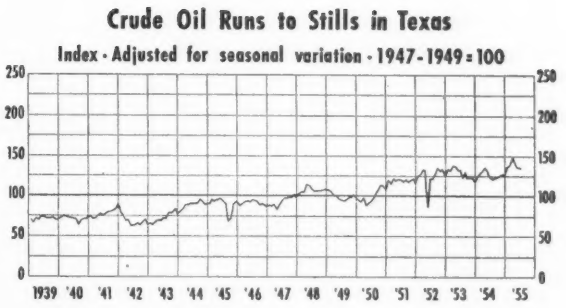
Area and product	July 1955	June 1955	July 1954	Percent change July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change July 1955 from July 1954
	Stocks (thous of barrels)				
UNITED STATES					
Gasoline	157,005	159,611	158,402	— 2	— 1
Distillate	115,936	99,981	100,439	+ 16	+ 15
Residual	45,457	44,799	54,651	+ 1	— 17
Kerosene	32,000	29,899	31,368	+ 7	+ 2
TEXAS					
Gasoline	26,655	27,797	25,295	— 4	+ 5
Distilalte	16,451	14,334	12,929	+ 15	+ 27
Residual	6,673	5,904	7,081	+ 13	— 6
Kerosene	4,321	4,403	3,536	— 2	+ 22

*Figures shown for week ending nearest the last day of the month.

as a whole, 5.8 kilowatt-hours are consumed in industry for every man-hour. Cement and pulp mills, prodigious consumers among the nonelectroprocess industries, use 62 and 45 kilowatt-hours, respectively, per man-hour. In aluminum reduction the ratio rises to 641 to one. The aluminum industry, moreover, seldom turns out finished products in the same area where reduction plants are located, because major aluminum markets are almost always highly integrated industrial complexes, such as the Detroit-Toledo-Cleveland area.

Some of these general rules about aluminum hold true for Texas, but expanding markets for extrusion ingot in the Southwest have encouraged Alcoa to begin production of this product at Rockdale. Markets in the area are expanding, but it may be a decade or so before any major aluminum producer will consider establishing a rolling mill in Texas or the Southwest.


Crude Oil Production in Texas
Index - Adjusted for seasonal variation - 1947-1949 = 100
150
100
50
0
1939 '40 '41 '42 '43 '44 '45 '46 '47 '48 '49 '50 '51 '52 '53 '54 '55



Texas industrial expansion. Two interesting developments in Texas' ever-expanding aircraft industry have been announced during the past month. Menasco Aircraft of Burbank, California, plans to build a $5 million plant near Amon Carter Field at Fort Worth; and Northrop Aircraft of Hawthorne, California, has purchased a large tract at El Paso. Menasco manufactures hydraulic equipment for aircraft, and its Fort Worth branch will be constructed concurrently with an expansion of its Burbank operations. About 500 employees will man its new Texas plant.

Northrop is readying plans for a pilot plant at El Paso to repair and modify propeller-driven target drones. Approximately 150 men will be employed in operation of the pilot plant. Later, according to company executives, the plant will be expanded into a major operation. Target drones are widely used at military bases throughout the Southwest and especially at Fort Bliss, El Paso.

Magnolia Petroleum Company recently closed its small Fort Worth refinery but has begun a $25 million expansion of its Beaumont plant. Decisions to close small, outmoded, and uneconomical Texas refineries have been numerous in recent years. Major refiners prefer to concentrate operations at their larger, more flexible units.

The Bureau of Mines has announced a $6.5 million expansion program for its Exell helium plant near Amarillo. Expansion at Exell will boost annual capacity to 300 million cubic feet from its present 85 million.

Lone Star Brewing Company will add 300,000 barrels in annual capacity to its San Antonio Brewery, according to a recent announcement made by H. D. Jersig, president.

Southwestern Oil and Refining Company of Corpus Christi will build a new 9000 barrel-per-stream-day platforming unit. The new Southwestern unit will be one of the largest in the world built for an independent refiner. In order to meet demand for high-octane gasoline, many such platformers have been constructed at the nation's refineries during recent years.

STANLEY A. ARBINGAST

WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Region	July*				January-July	
	Oil	Gas	Dry	Total	1955	1954
TEXAS	1,042	45	575	1,662	11,615	10,574
Southwest	150	3	82	235	1,789	1,440
Gulfcoast	95	10	91	196	1,477	1,582
East	27	11	42	80	568	680
North central	421	7	285	713	4,370	3,880
West	280	2	65	347	2,837	2,422
Panhandle	69	12	10	91	574	570

*For four weeks ending July 30, 1955.

PETROLEUM AND GAS ACTIVITY

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts and Railroad Commission of Texas

Product	July 1955	June 1955	July 1954	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
CRUDE OIL					
Value (thous of dols)	199,748	265,545	227,132	— 25	— 12
Production (thous of bbls)	80,037	84,121	79,960	— 5	x
Runs to stills (thous of bbls)	65,550	62,835	58,836	+ 4	+ 11
NATURAL AND CASINGHEAD GAS PRODUCED (value in thous of dols)	32,989	35,987	33,771	— 8	— 2
SULFUR RECOVERED (long tons)	770	0	878	....	— 12

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

Report to Texas

Weekly 15-minute programs on Texas business and industry, prepared by the Bureau of Business Research, will be broadcast throughout Texas beginning in October. Your local station can give you the details.

AGRICULTURE

Drouth still critical. Although farm conditions over most of Texas had improved by mid-August, the drouth was still critical in a 20-county South Texas area. Agriculture Commissioner John C. White said farmers and ranchers in that area desperately need federal and state assistance.

Judge A. M. Edwards of Live Oak County, secretary of the Emergency Assistance Association of South Texas Counties, said drouth conditions "are as bad as they can be" between Laredo and Corpus Christi. Many ranchers have abandoned cattle raising. Ranchers in Live Oak County are burning prickly pears to provide stock feed, and only 20 bales of cotton were ginned in the county this year.

Cattlemen in Northeast and East Texas faced the coming fall and winter seasons with a record amount of hay. Rains during the month improved pasture and crop conditions, and livestock are in excellent condition. Cotton and grain sorghums were reported in good condition in the High Plains area. Livestock producers in far West Texas decreased the amount of supplemental feeding of herds after rains improved range conditions. Harvest of early grain sorghum crops in the Rolling Plains was completed in August, and cotton made excellent progress. Prospects brightened for cotton as the harvest got underway in South Central Texas, following scattered rains. Corn and peanuts also were harvested in August, although the peanut yield was reduced somewhat because of root rot.

Texas has record sorghum yield. Texas will produce more than half of the nation's grain sorghum crop this year, according to a forecast made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in August. An estimated 141,570,000 bushels will be harvested in Texas, as compared with the 265,900,000-bushel harvest anticipated for the nation.

For Texas, the bumper crop will mean a 20.6% increase over last year's 117,386,000-bushel harvest of grain sorghums. Average production in Texas for the 1944–53 period was 77,502,000 bushels. For the nation, the estimated 1955 production will be a 30.3% increase over the 204,087,000 bushels harvested in 1954. The national average for 1943–52 was 134,600,000 bushels.

The USDA said the large crop reflects a 15% increase in acreage and generally favorable yield prospects in all except dryland areas of South Texas. High yields have been realized in Central Texas counties, and the North Texas crop is very promising. The prospective crop for 1955 has been exceeded only by the 144.5 million bushels harvested in 1950. Indicated yield per acre, placed at 22.5 bushels, will be the highest since 1919. Last year's yield per acre in Texas was 21.5 bushels. The average yield for the state for 1943–52 was 18.5 bushels.

Cotton production down slightly. The indicated cotton crop for Texas in 1955, placed at 3.9 million bales of 500 pounds gross weight, is only about 1% below the 1954 production, despite the fact that there will be nearly a million fewer acres harvested this year than last. The USDA said a yield of 278 pounds per acre, highest return since 1866, accounts for the slight decrease. Yield per acre harvested in 1954 was 245 pounds, and the 1944–53 average was 188 pounds.

The 1955 prospective production of the Texas cotton crop is 15% above the 3,388,000-bale average for 1945–1954. The forecast is based on August 1 conditions and assumes that factors affecting the crop during the remainder of the season will be about normal. In making the forecast, the USDA said an allowance was made for excess acreage that will be plowed up to comply with acreage allotments.

Improved soil moisture, especially in Northwest Texas, and the use of practices designed to produce high yields from sharply reduced acreages are reflected in the unusually high yield. Also, about one-fourth of the state's acreage is being irrigated.

FARM CASH INCOME

Commodity	January-July 1955	January-July 1954	Percent change
	Value (thousands of dollars)		
TOTAL	773,353	795,262	— 3
Cotton	173,591	185,596	— 6
Cottonseed	7,215	9,037	— 20
Wheat	29,112	39,717	— 27
Oats	9,025	10,988	— 18
Corn	4,261	4,042	+ 5
Grain sorghum	25,678	22,919	+ 12
Flaxseed	1,547	3,917	— 61
Peanuts	3,520	2,914	+ 21
Cattle	190,543	181,025	+ 5
Calves	52,777	59,828	— 12
Hogs	39,537	45,646	— 13
Sheep and lambs	19,285	17,459	+ 10
Wool	11,144	14,796	— 25
Mohair	7,123	5,214	+ 37
Poultry	31,818	34,217	— 7
Eggs	43,570	43,005	+ 1
Milk and milk products	70,961	70,183	+ 1
Fruit and vegetables	52,646	44,759	+ 18

Farm cash income as computed by the Bureau understates actual farm cash income by from 6% to 10%. This situation results from the fact that means of securing complete local marketings, especially by truck, have not yet been fully developed. In addition, means have not yet been developed for computing cash income from all agricultural specialties of local importance in scattered areas. This situation does not impair the accuracy of the index shown on page 24.

INDEXES OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

(1909–14 = 100)

Source: Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Index	July 1955	June 1955	July 1954	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	257	263	258	— 2	x
ALL CROPS	251	253	249	— 1	+ 1
Food grains	218	222	208	— 2	+ 5
Feed grain and hay	172	182	179	— 5	— 4
Potatoes and sweet potatoes	263	234	237	+ 12	+ 11
Fruit	119	119	83	0	+ 43
Truck crops	307	352	325	— 13	— 6
Cotton	261	259	260	+ 1	x
Oil-bearing crops	262	262	260	0	+ 1
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	266	275	270	— 3	— 1
Meat animals	289	312	290	— 7	x
Dairy products	241	235	226	+ 3	+ 7
Poultry and eggs	219	209	208	+ 5	+ 5
Wool	267	273	366	— 2	— 27

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

Except in the northwestern part of the state, insects are more numerous than a year ago. Boll weevils have plagued upper coastal, eastern, and northern counties, but control measures have generally been effective. Damage has not been excessive.

Wheat estimate still low. The estimated 1955 Texas wheat crop remained at 14,212,000 bushels, unchanged from July forecast, according to the USDA August report. The estimate represents the lowest production since 1935, when Texas harvested 11,473,000 bushels of wheat. The all-time high yield was produced in 1947, when 116,960,000 bushels were reaped.

This year's estimate is down 46% from 1954, when 30,894,000 bushels were harvested, and compares with the 1944–53 average of 55,404,000 bushels. A USDA spokesman said the short crop has resulted from the drouth.

Total wheat production for the nation will be down 6% this year from the 969,781,000 bushels produced in 1954. Estimated U. S. production will be 910,958,000 bushels.

Peanut production up. Texas' peanut production in 1955 is forecast at 219 million pounds, more than double last year's short crop of 108,185,000 pounds. However, this increase would bring the level to only 80% of the average 1944–53 production of 272,522,000 pounds. The increase over 1954 is due to considerably higher yields, an 8% increase in the acreage of peanuts grown alone, and a higher percentage of the acreage expected to be picked and threshed in 1955. In August only fair dryland yields were being realized in the South Texas harvest, although the crop in other areas, especially in Cross Timbers, continued to make good progress. A record hay crop of 1,747,000 tons is indicated, with production up about one-fourth over last year's crop and one-tenth above average. Sharply expanded acreages of grain and peanut-vine hay and higher yields account for most of the increased tonnage over 1954.

A fair pecan crop is in prospect in the southeastern part of Texas, while other areas have very short and spotted production prospects. Pecan production is forecast at 17.5 million pounds this year, compared with revised estimates of 24 million pounds harvested last year and the 1944–53 average of 32,665,000 pounds. This year's prospective crop includes 2 million pounds of improved pecans and 15.5 million pounds of seedlings.

CARLOAD SHIPMENTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Source: Compiled from reports received from Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Commodity	January-July 1955	January-July 1954	Percent change
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	31,436	32,228	— 2
FRUITS	7,048	5,819	+ 21
Canteloupes	3,417	2,418	+ 41
Honeydews	410	121	+240
Watermelon	3,216	3,280	— 2
VEGETABLES	14,055	15,514	— 9
Carrots	4,588	4,113	+ 12
Corn	372	650	— 43
Cucumbers	20	56	— 64
Onions	4,193	4,756	— 12
Potatoes	451	833	— 46
Tomatoes	4,431	5,106	— 13
ALL OTHER	10,338	10,895	— 5

CARLOAD SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK*

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Classification	July 1955	June 1955	July 1954	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1955
TOTAL	2,914	4,119	1,952	— 29	+ 49
Cattle	1,964	3,158	1,460	— 38	+ 35
Calves	497	434	424	+ 15	+ 17
Hogs	2	9	5	— 78	— 60
Sheep	451	518	63	— 13	+620
INTERSTATE	2,666	3,969	1,795	— 33	+ 49
Cattle	1,774	3,065	1,348	— 42	+ 32
Calves	474	409	400	+ 16	+ 19
Hogs	1	0	0	----	----
Sheep	417	495	47	— 16	+790
INTRASTATE	248	150	157	+ 65	+ 58
Cattle	190	93	112	+100	+ 70
Calves	23	25	24	— 8	— 4
Hogs	1	9	5	— 89	— 80
Sheep	34	23	16	+ 48	+110

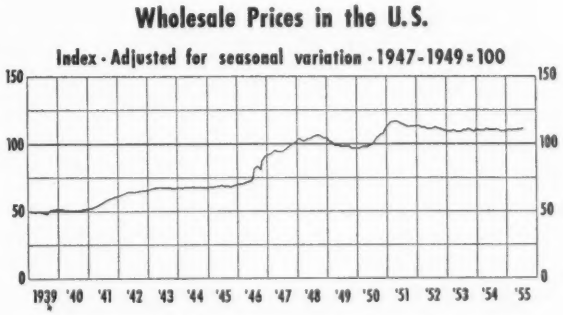
*Rail-car basis: cattle, 30 head per car; calves, 60; hogs, 80; and sheep, 250.

Black fly infests Valley. The black fly has been found in the Rio Grande Valley citrus orchards, but government agricultural officials said there is no indication that this is a major infestation. Earlier this summer, the black fly was found within the city limits of Brownsville. An intensive spraying campaign has been held there.

Recently, a citrus tree south of Progreso was found to be infested. An inspection turned up another infestation in the same area. However, there is no indication that the black fly has become widespread.

If the pest should get out of control, it could destroy the citrus crop and ruin the trees. A leaf sucker, the pest prevents the trees from producing fruit. The Mexican Department of Agriculture is cooperating with the United States in surveying the extent of the infestation.

ANNE K. SCHULER



INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES
(1947–49 = 100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Index	1955* Aug 9	1955* Aug 2	July 1955	Aug 1954
ALL COMMODITIES	110.1	110.1	110.6	110.5
Farm products	87.8	87.2	89.5	95.8
Processed foods	100.9	101.1	103.1	106.4
All other commodities	116.7	116.7	116.5	114.4

*Estimates of the index for the week ending on date given.

FINANCE

Credit restrictions. On August 2, the Chase Manhattan Bank raised its prime loan rate from 3% to 3¼%. Shortly afterward, the U. S. Trust Company, Bankers Trust Company, Bank of New York, Hanover Bank, Irving Trust Company, Chemical Corn Exchange Bank, Guaranty Trust Company, and J. P. Morgan & Company announced the same increase in their rates. This rise has been expected for some time as a result of the general rise in interest rates. The effect will be pervasive, for the prime loan rate is the rate charged borrowers with the best credit rating. Other business borrowers with less favorable ratings may expect a similar increase in the cost of borrowed funds.

LOANS BY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Source: Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock

Use	July 1955	June 1955	July 1954	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
	Number				
ALL LOANS	4,837	4,753	4,190	+ 2	+ 15
Construction	1,130	1,149	974	− 2	+ 16
Purchase	1,879	1,807	1,427	+ 4	+ 32
Other	1,828	1,797	1,789	+ 2	+ 2
	Value (thousands of dollars)				
ALL LOANS	$3,158	32,334	25,542	+ 3	+ 30
Construction	10,784	11,800	8,466	− 9	+ 27
Purchase	14,963	13,896	9,768	+ 8	+ 53
Other	7,411	6,638	7,308	+ 12	+ 1

This is the first increase since April 27, 1953, and boosts the rate to the highest level charged in 22 years. In 1933 the rate was 4% and slipping downward. It reached 1½% in 1935 and remained at this level until 1947. Since the rate began its rise in 1947, it has been cut only once. It was reduced from 3¼% to 3% on March 17, 1954, and remained at this rate until the current increase.

On the day following the prime rate adjustment, the Federal Reserve Board announced approval of the Cleveland, Chicago, Boston, and Atlanta Reserve Banks' upward revision of their rediscount rates. The Cleveland rate was raised to 2¼% and the others to 2%. The following day the New York, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Dallas, and San Francisco Reserve Banks raised their rates to 2%. The timing of the announcement, coming as it did immediately after the announced increase in the prime rate, was such as to produce the maximum effect.

These events are only a part of the whole picture of the central monetary authority's patient and tireless efforts to avoid an inflationary rise in prices during the current business upswing. The Federal Reserve Board has a broad responsibility for controlling the money supply in such a way as to avoid speculative excesses which might lead to a recession. However, it does not have direct control over the entire supply of credit. In those areas of the financial system outside the commercial banking system and the stock markets, it has to rely on its powers of persuasion. These powers are being used with good effect. The National Automobile Dealers Association, citing government warnings about credit conditions, recently warned its members that too liberal credit is now a threat to the automobile market. At about the same time, the Federal Reserve Board was holding closed-door meetings with a dozen finance company officials to discuss current easy credit terms. The following day a group of bankers met with the board to discuss the same topic. Previously the board and the Comptroller of the Currency had sent letters to banks throughout the country asking for detailed data on consumer loans. The terms for housing credit have been tightened slightly by the Federal Housing Administration and the Veterans Administration. All of these maneuvers are part of the general campaign against easy credit terms. The implication is clear that if moral suasion is not effective, more stringent methods involving further increases in the rediscount rate may be resorted to.

Stock market. The market recently gave evidence of having reached a ceiling when it raised the Dow-Jones average of 30 industrials to a peak of 468.45 in its July 27 rally. Since that time prices have declined to 448.84 on August 9 and hovered at 452.85 on August 17. The steady increase in interest rates has narrowed the spread between stock and bond yields to the point where bonds look more attractive. This trend has been in effect for some time. With the wholesale and consumer price levels showing considerable stability, investors may turn their attention to securities offering greater protection of principal at the expense of hedging against inflation. In the light of generally accepted theories of the relationship between the yields of stocks and bonds this should be taking place. But there is evidence to the contrary. With Treasurys selling at prices to yield better than 3%, many of the blue chip commons were continuing to sell at prices which depressed their yields to below 3% and as low as 1.2%. This change in the public attitude may be the result of 16 years of prosperity interrupted only by brief periods of recession. Rapid growth of the economy may well have engendered

CHANGES IN CONDITION OF WEEKLY REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN THE DALLAS DISTRICT

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954	Percent change: July 1954 from June 1954
ASSETS			
Loans and investments	+ 2	+ 10	x
Loans	+ 1	+ 18	− 1
Total U.S. Government securities	+ 4	− 2	+ 1
Treasury bills	+ 57	− 51	+ 4
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	0	− 80	+ 8
Treasury notes	+ 2	+ 40	− 1
Bonds	+ 2	+ 10	x
Other securities	+ 2	+ 15	+ 4
Reserve lith Federal Reserve Banks	− 3	x	− 5
Cash in vaults	− 6	− 4	+ 9
Balances with domestic banks	− 24	− 15	− 23
LIABILITIES			
Total deposits, except interbank	x	+ 8	x
Demand deposits, adjusted	− 1	+ 3	+ 3
Time deposits	+ 6	+ 21	− 1
Government deposits	− 13	+ 44	− 45
Interbank deposits	− 5	+ 1	− 18
Domestic banks	− 5	− 1	− 19
Foreign banks	+ 6	+ 36	+ 56
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	+ 1	+ 11	+ 2

Percentage changes are based on the Wednesday nearest the end of the month.

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

Source: Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Treasury Department

Source and area	July 1954–55	July 1953–54	Percent change
TEXAS	$101,222,339	$98,312,433	+ 3
Income	33,996,477	34,124,363	x
Employment	666,052	344,293	+ 93
Withholding	55,974,453	54,849,405	+ 2
Other	10,585,357	8,994,372	+ 18
FIRST DISTRICT	62,728,613	65,132,384	— 4
Income	14,430,548	18,047,099	— 20
Employment	30,176	88,172	— 66
Withholding	42,071,607	41,936,773	x
Other	6,196,282	5,060,340	+ 22
SECOND DISTRICT	38,493,726	33,180,049	+ 16
Income	19,565,929	16,077,264	+ 22
Employment	635,876	256,121	+150
Withholding	13,902,846	12,912,632	+ 8
Other	4,389,075	3,934,032	+ 12

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

the idea that it must inevitably continue to rise at a rate which assures worthwhile capital gains from common stock investments regardless of their dividend yield.

Variable annuities. The general rise in commodity prices and consequent decline in the purchasing power of the dollar, which have made the investment trusts a new and potent factor in the stock markets, have been matters of concern to the life insurance companies. Their conventional annuity plans provide for a fixed dollar income to be paid to the annuitant upon his retirement. The rise in the price level has held forth the prospect of an annuity income purchased in relatively dear dollars which would be paid in dollars of greatly reduced purchasing power. With the increase in life expectancy brought about by medical science, the prospect for many seems to be an old age filled with financial difficulties despite careful saving.

The variable annuity is designed to provide the annuitant with a hedge against inflation. It does not offer a fixed dollar value income. The premiums are invested in common stocks. Increases in yields from these stocks increase the amount of the annuity. Decreases reduce the annuity. The insurance laws of most states do not permit the sale of such annuities at present. The Prudential Insurance Company of America expects New Jersey to pass a law favorable to the variable annuity this year. In Washington, the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company of America has been licensed by the District of Columbia as the first life insurance company to offer such annuities for sale.

The variable annuity is not looked on as a panacea for retirement problems. Rather it is expected to form an integral part of a well-balanced insurance program. It will help to simplify the difficult problem of transferring purchasing power into the future.

Eleventh District banking. Loans and investments of weekly reporting member banks in the Dallas district in July showed a 10% increase over July 1954. Loans showed a contraseasonal rise of 1% over June, and total U. S. Government securities held were up 4%. Reserves on deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank were up less than ½% from last year. Deposits exclusive of interbank deposits were 8% above July of 1954. Total capital accounts showed an 11% increase in July over the corresponding month of last year. The increase in capital indicates the growing strength of Eleventh District banks.

Dallas bank deposits were up 7% over July 1954. Fort Worth and Houston deposits were up 9%. San Antonio deposits were up 5%, Beaumont 5%, Port Arthur 18%, and El Paso 8%.

Bank debits, which show the volume of commercial transactions, were up 7% in Dallas in July over July 1954. For Worth debits were up 9%, Houston 8%, San Antonio 10%, Port Arthur 9%, and El Paso 14%. Beaumont debits were down 1%.

The annual rate of deposit turnover, an indicator of the rate of use of bank deposits, was at 23.2 times a year in Dallas, up 1% over July a year ago. The Fort Worth rate was at 19.3, down 1% from July 1954; Houston, at 19.7, was up 2%; San Antonio, at 16.4, was up 4%; Beaumont, at 13.7, was down 6%; Port Arthur, at 14.2, was down 6%; and El Paso, at 19.4, was up 7%. Harlingen led the reporting group with a rate of turnover of 27.4; however, this high figure represented a drop of 7% from the 29.4 rate of July 1954.

FRANCIS B. MAY

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Source	September 1–July 31 1954–55	1953–54	Percent change
TOTAL	$771,383,835	$730,677,168	+ 6
Ad valorem and inheritance tax	34,121,446	32,506,756	+ 5
Poll tax	1,663,618	2,085,208	— 20
Utilities gross receipts	4,067,042	3,624,372	+ 12
Telephone gross receipts	3,792,256	3,446,420	+ 10
Natural and casinghead gas gross production	35,556,873	23,289,542	+ 53
Crude oil gross production receipts	119,023,294	117,562,453	+ 1
Sulfur gross production receipts	5,057,775	4,712,161	+ 7
Cement gross production receipts	2,020,152	1,624,188	+ 24
Other gross receipts and production taxes	2,048,670	1,583,870	+ 29
Insurance and other occupation taxes	21,756,833	20,803,651	+ 4
Motor fuel tax less refunds paid	110,298,908	103,534,800	+ 7
Cigarette tax and license	31,785,005	31,602,412	+ 1
Alcoholic beverage taxes and licenses	19,442,506	17,077,983	+ 14
Sales taxes on autos, radios, etc.	20,348,343	16,819,441	+ 21
Hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses	1,594,563	1,533,679	+ 4
Store taxes, exemptions and filing fees	1,849,573	1,772,897	+ 4
Other licenses and fees	14,537,227	13,487,647	+ 8
Franchise taxes	29,841,997	15,419,567	+ 94
Mineral leases, rentals and bonuses	28,969,766	54,663,062	— 47
Surface rentals, leases, and easements	1,009,141	1,102,712	— 8
Oil and gas royalties	22,818,288	22,505,763	+ 1
Interest on deposits	1,094,172	746,183	+ 47
Interest on securities owned	13,005,670	11,541,922	+ 13
Interest on land sales	2,540,510	1,468,401	+ 73
Motor vehicle licenses, permits, etc.	47,339,286	41,648,483	+ 14
Other unclassified receipts	1,977,732	1,496,517	+ 32
Sale of commodities	9,671,421	9,564,492	+ 1
Other miscellaneous revenue	4,097,515	1,528,932	+170
Federal aid for highways	40,555,445	29,561,226	+ 37
Federal aid for public health	5,166,389	5,911,610	— 13
Federal aid for public welfare	107,366,365	109,098,619	— 2
Federal aid for public education	9,169,097	7,201,966	+ 27
Federal aid for other purposes	1,835,487	794,464	+130
Unemployment compensation taxes	13,395,125	13,947,215	— 4
All other receipts	2,566,345	5,408,554	— 53

Texas glassmaking — today

Texas has what it takes—to make glass. Good supplies of the basic materials, silica sand, limestone, and soda ash, plus the cheap natural gas needed to keep furnaces at volcanic temperatures, are attracting major glassmakers to Texas. And the soaring market for consumer goods in the Southwest is making them glad they came.

Centers of Texas glass manufacture today are Waco and Palestine, both with full-scale container plants in operation. Corsicana, with a new plant under construction, will soon add still more capacity to the industry. While glass is one of the oldest man-made materials, the methods used in forming glass products today are fast and efficient beyond the imagination of most consumers. They have to be fast, for during 1954, second highest year on record in the industry, the nation used over 18 billion glass containers. Efficiency is important, too, because the key to the economics of the industry is low unit cost, low enough to add very little to the price of the product to be packed in glass.

About a third of all U. S. production of glass containers consists of food jars and bottles. Most of the rest is split between beverage bottles and containers for drug store products, both medical and health supplies and cosmetics and toiletries. Use of glass containers is growing faster than population, faster than consumer income. Even the products that some consumers look upon as outmoded still find an active market. For example, an estimated 96% of home-delivered milk and cream still arrives in glass bottles, in spite of the inroads of the waxed-paper milk carton. And in Texas there is at least one glass shop still busy making old-style lamp chimneys.

Owens-Illinois, largest of the glass container businesses, operates a million-bottle-a-day plant in Waco. At that, the plant is one of the smallest of the 13 O-I installations scattered across the country. Even by Texas standards, however, it is a major industry in its area. Every day 300 tons of molten glass are converted into containers ranging from pepper-sauce bottles to Davy Crockett tumblers. The familiar "Duraglass" trademark of Owens-Illinois is branded on more containers than any other name; last year O-I turned out 37% of the nation's total production.

The Davy Crockett tumblers are typical of a big and growing product, packers tumblers. These are containers, often printed with a decorative ceramic label or design, that are ultimately sold at the grocery full of jam, peanut butter, cottage cheese, or even ready-made cake frosting. They are designed for use as drinking glasses once the contents are consumed. Neither Davy Crockett nor any other special-order design will wash off the tumbler, for it is applied to the glass by a modified silk-screen process and then baked into the glass, just as the designs on china are fused into the body by firing.

The Waco O-I plant also makes bottles for household hypochlorite bleach (e.g., Clorox, Purex), Texas-brewed beer, instant coffee, cooking and salad oils, soft drinks, syrup, cosmetics, foods, chemicals, and medicinals. The bulk of the output is sold in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana as well as parts of Arkansas, New Mexico and Colorado. Occasional shipments go to more distant markets.

As a glassmaking location, Waco has fully lived up to the expectations of Owens-Illinois. Before the plant went into operation in January 1944, the company had already drafted a detailed economic study of the area and found that Waco offered excellent transportation facilities, vitally important to glassmakers; a pool of untrained but potentially excellent workers; and access to the needed raw materials.

Today about 700 employees keep the plant going day and night. Local O-I Personnel Director Foster Coleman has coupled personnel selection techniques—interviews and aptitude tests—with an intensive safety engineering program. The results have been high operating efficiency plus a safety record that has won the plant national recognition for its low accident rates. About 45% of the employees in the Waco plant are women. The majority of them work as product inspectors, scanning the production lines for flaws or defects in the glass.

The glass-plant cross-section on the front cover illustrates the flow of materials in a typical plant. But it does not show some of the work that goes on outside the main production line. For instance, the Waco O-I plant includes a subsidiary production line where corrugated boxes and phase of the business is so important, in fact, that Owens-Illinois is the third largest producer of corrugated boxes in the nation and uses the entire output for shipping O-I products.

The three main furnaces at Waco are similar to the one shown on the cover. With all in operation, it is possible to produce simultaneously containers in three different colors. This is a big advantage in speeding orders of colored glass to customers. Coca-Cola bottles, for instance, must exactly match the "Georgia green" standard tint required by the company. Even slight deviations in color disqualify a batch of glass; and contrary to popular opinion, the green of most bottles is a carefully controlled color, not just a random off-shade due to impurities in the glass. Most of the greens are colored through the use of iron chromite. Amber glass, used for beer bottles and for light-sensitive drugs and chemicals, is tinted with so-called sea coal.

The furnaces in which the glass batches are melted and refined are built of sturdy blocks of refractory silica. But in the high temperatures at which they are used day and night, the molten glass erodes the inner surfaces, literally eating its way out of the furnace. As a result, the walls must be rebuilt about every two years (i.e., after the furnace has melted enough glass to load about 6,000 freight cars with bottles).

National employment by Owens-Illinois totals about 26,000, and it is to the advantage of the O-I workers in Waco that most of the company's plants are located in areas where higher wages prevail. Since O-I contracts for labor on a nationwide basis (except for West coast plants), wages paid in Waco match those of plants in the heavily industrialized East and Great Lakes region.

Many of the caps and lids for the 22 million containers made every month in Waco are manufactured by Owens-Illinois closure and plastics plants in New Jersey, Illinois, and California.

Second big glass plant now running in Texas is the Palestine installation of Knox Glass, Incorporated (of Pennsylvania). Plant Manager C. H. Drane explains that the Palestine unit, like Owens-Illinois, is primarily market-oriented. Texas and the adjacent states are supplied by Knox with around 350,000 glass containers a day. Top lines in the Palestine plant are food containers—salad dressing and pickle jars, jam pots, and packers tumblers—and also soft-drink and wine bottles and miscellaneous containers for fruit juices, brilliantine, and other products.

Of seven glass plants operated by Knox, the Texas unit is the most efficient on a cost basis. Prime reason for the economical operation is low fuel costs. The Palestine furnaces are fed directly from two gas wells that pipe their entire flow into the Knox plant. The cost of this gas is only about half the prevailing industrial rate quoted by public utility companies in the area.

Last month the Chattanooga Glass Company announced plans to build a container plant in Corsicana. Blueprints of the plant indicate an expected cost of $750,000 for the initial unit, which will employ 65 to 75 workers. Two more units of comparable size are projected by the company; upon completion they would boost total employment in the Corsicana works to around 225.

Chattanooga Glass is building in Texas primarily to supply Coca-Cola bottles to bottling plants in the area; bottles for Dr. Pepper and other soft drinks will also be produced and perhaps eventually other types of glassware.

Most of the market for Corsicana-made bottles will be in Texas, especially in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. But some products may be shipped to Louisiana, Arkansas, and probably California.

Newest, most spectacular offshoot of the ancient trade of glassmaking is the spinning and fabrication of glass fibers. For years spun glass was associated mainly with Christmas-tree decoration. Not until the thirties did technologists begin to look closely at the possibilities of these tiny strands of glass, 15 times finer than human hair. Finally glass company chemists hit upon a plastic that could be molded around fibrous-glass reinforcement to yield an incredibly tough matrix of fiber-and-plastic, stronger, pound for pound, than steel plate.

The idea was not a new one. Ancient Egyptians protected their mummies with linen fabric impregnated with shellac. These wrappings have lasted, intact, for thousands of years —but in a dust-dry climate. The problem in Europe and America was to make a waterproof material employing the same principle of structural reinforcement. Today, the family of polyester molding resins laced with thousands of glass fibers has proved to be the answer.

Major Texas producer of glass-in-plastic is the Corrulux Division of L-O-F Glass Fibers Company, a Libby-Owens-Ford affiliate. Local initiative brought about the founding of the Houston Corrulux plant in 1948; all the original backers and developers were from Houston and Galveston. In seven busy years the output of the plant has increased 14 times, and J. S. Finger, Corrulux general manager, says, "We think the glass fiber industry has just scratched the surface." He describes the position of the industry as being like the position of aluminum 30 years ago.

The $10 million annual output of Corrulux is shipped from Houston to every part of the nation and the world in the form of flat and corrugated panels. These are used in skylights and sidelights, patio roofs and awnings, translucent partitions and windows, and shower and bath enclosures. Unlike most of the Texas glass industries, Corrulux did not build in Houston because of the nearness of raw materials or markets. The polyester resins used in Corrulux panels are based largely on Texas petrochemical products, but they are compounded in the Midwest and California, then shipped back to Houston. And the glass fiber itself is spun in L-O-F plants in West Virginia and Ohio. Scarcely any of the materials are Texas-made.

Corrulux has benefited from its port location in securing foreign orders. The ample Houston labor pool has also been an advantage in securing workers. But the newness of

To make glass you mix a powder of

The Santa Anna pits in West Central Texas provide high-grade silica sand (over 99 percent SiO_2), the basic material of all glasses. But pure silica is brittle, will not melt at ordinary furnace temperatures; other materials must be added.

Marble Falls, in Central Texas, provides high-calcium limestone for Texas glassmaking. Carbon dioxide liberated by the lime at high furnace temperatures bubbles through the glass batch, helps mix it.

Soda ash from Corpus Christi and other Gulf chemical centers is shipped by thousands of tons to glass plants in the area. Other alkali salts (sodium nitrate, potassium carbonate, potassium nitrate) are also used in some types of glass.

Feldspar is a relatively minor ingredient. Some feldspars are found in Texas, but they are not pure enough for glass manufacture. Other states, particularly Colorado, supply ample amounts.

the field has made it difficult to find enough technologists, engineers familiar with the ways of plastics.

Construction paneling is not the only use for glass-polyester matrices. Other Texas fabricators of glass-in-plastic include the Lone Star Boat Company in Grand Prairie, a molder of plastic boat hulls, and Perry Manufacturing Company in Austin.

There are others, too, for hundreds of new products are being made of glass-reinforced plastics: strong, corrosion-resistant pipe, fishing rods, aircraft radar housings, guided missile noses. Most widely advertised of all is the plastic automobile body, which has yet to be used except on special sport models like the Chevrolet Corvette, introduced two years ago.

Manufacturers are now looking to the possibility of replacing aluminum and porcelain-coated parts in automatic washing machines and refrigerators with glass-in-plastic. The cost and weight would both be cut approximately in half, it is estimated.

Another glass fiber fabricator in Texas is the Coast Manufacturing Company. The Coast plant of Seguin employs about 120 workers in the making of glass textiles. The output, about 500,000 square yards of cloth a month, is shipped to the company's Livermore, California, plant for further processing. Every day thousands of yards of glass yarn are received from the Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation. The yarn is plied, or twisted, then placed on spools on the 84 electrically driven looms. The ultimate product, like all glass fiber products, is fireproof, waterproof, and resistant to almost all chemicals.

The Texas construction business is another big consumer of fibrous glass, not only in insulation and sound conditioning but also in air-conditioning filters. A future possibility is that sheets or preforms of glass-reinforced plastic may be shaped and cured on the job in the building trades. In that way, built-in units could be shaped on the spot for use in houses and commercial and industrial structures.

In all, glass fiber accounts for 10% or less of the total tonnage of fiber products, but it is a growing segment of the industry and one that is likely to be limited only by the economics of glass production.

According to the President's Materials Policy Commission, the major limiting factor in glassmaking during coming years will not be silica sand but rather soda ash, which makes up nearly a quarter of an ordinary glass batch.

Soda ash is a product of caustic soda, which is commonly manufactured with chlorine as a coproduct of salt. The salt itself is cheap and the supply almost inexhaustible in Texas, but the process power requirements are high. In order to sell all the products at the necessarily low prices they command, cheap power or fuel must be available. Any great rise in power rates would increase the prices of both chlorine and soda ash, perhaps inhibiting their sales.

Dr. John T. Lonsdale, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas, says that supplies of high-grade silica sand may also be a limiting factor in the future of glass manufacturing. According to Dr. Lonsdale, there is only an "outside chance" of finding important new deposits of glass sand in Texas. "Obviously there's plenty of sand," he says, "but not much of it can meet the rigid specifications of the glass industry." The Santa Anna sand of West Central Texas and a lower grade sand mined in Bexar and Atascosa counties are the two present sources of commercial silica. At the rate it is being produced, the Santa Anna sand, typically well over 99% pure silica, will probably last a good many years, but certainly not forever. The Atascosa pits are now being mined, too, but only to supply a glass plant in Monterrey, Mexico. Considerable amounts of clay and iron must be removed from this sand before it is fit for glassmaking; even then, it is doubtful whether it could be used for high-grade clear glass products.

Other Southwestern states, particularly Oklahoma, have important glass sand deposits. In fact Oklahoma once supplied Texas glass plants with most of their sand. But today Oklahoma has its own glass industry, and the surplus production of sand available for shipment to Texas plants is probably not unlimited.

Limestone is another story. Although the limestone used in glassmaking must be exceptionally pure, it is not used in such large quantities as to make the supply a critical problem, especially not in Texas, with its tremendous deposits of limestone. Much of the Texas stone, like most Texas sand, is shot with iron sediments. But probably enough of it is reasonably free of iron and other impurities.

Most of the rest of the ingredients of the glass batch are used in such small quantities that they can be shipped any reasonable distance without upsetting the economics of production. Commercial feldspar, one of these minor ingredients, is not found in Texas; but Texas glassmakers import it from Colorado and Missouri. Other substances brought in from outside the state include arsenic, selenium and cobalt, sea coal, and barytes.

In spite of the construction boom that has been more dynamic in Texas, perhaps, than in any other state, no plate or flat glass is made here. This segment of the industry has remained largely in its long-time centers in the East and Great Lakes region. The two leading markets for flat glass are construction and automobile manufacture, and the center of gravity for the latter has strongly influenced the location of plate glass plants. This year alone, over 5,000 acres of safety glass will be used in new cars.

The nearest ordinary flat glass plant to Texas is in Shreveport, Louisiana, a Libby-Owens-Ford unit there. And plate glass must be shipped in from the Pittsburgh Plate Glass mill in Crystal City, Missouri, or the Libby-Owens-Ford plant in Toledo, Ohio. Nevertheless, these out-of-state plants make some of the largest shipments to Texas. Typical of the lavish use of glass in contemporary Texas building is the new 40-story Republic National Bank building in Dallas. Its 2,735 windows contain some 45,000 square feet of blue-green tinted "Solex" Pittsburgh Plate glass. Tinting reduces eye-strain as well as air-conditioning costs.

This light-filtering property suggests many special applications for glass. Glass can be hardened for use in bearings of centrifugal pumps; it can be molded accurately and cheaply for use in all-glass fuse plugs; its smoothness makes it valuable for use in textile industries, for it will not accumulate deposits of dye or snag delicate fibers; it is highly effective of course in electrical insulation.

In all, the day may be in sight when glass, together with plastics and ceramic materials, will replace metals and wood in many uses, and when a new world may be constructed of glass building blocks.

ROBERT H. RYAN

LABOR

Employment continues upward. Employment in Texas continued its uptrend into July, when national employment set an all-time record of nearly 65,000,000 at work and fewer than 2,500,000 unemployed.

Texas Employment Commission offices report moderate declines in unemployment for the state. Opening of schools and colleges will take still more off the unemployment rolls. Meanwhile, the course of employment was expected to continue upward, though probably at a slackened pace, until September. Expansion is anticipated in construction, transportation equipment, lumber and wood products, and apparel industries. Retail stores have already started increasing their sales forces for the fall school trade.

Forecasted gains in employment between July and September include increases of 4,215 workers at El Paso, 3,400 at Dallas, 3,220 at Waco, 2,600 at Fort Worth, 2,195 at Houston, 845 at Beaumont, 610 at Lubbock, 608 at San Antonio, 382 at Amarillo, and 355 at Texarkana. TEC officials at Corpus Christi looked for a decrease of 1,265 workers in September from the July total of 69,430. The July figure is less, however, than the July 1954 total. This is due primarily to poor crop production in the area.

In comparison with the July 1954 employment figures, conditions of the major labor centers appear excellent. Dallas recorded a gain of 45 workers during July, the mild beginning of a recovery from the loss registered during June. Further July gain was retarded by two labor disputes, which idled 830 workers. At Fort Worth employment mounted to an all-time peak. Transportation equipment, both aircraft and motor vehicle, advanced there by a total of 900, and food processing picked up 100. Compared with July 1954, total employment was up 8,100.

July-to-July employment gains were also registered at Dallas (7,805), Houston (7,660), Waco (4,225), San Antonio (3,979), Austin (3,590), Lubbock (2,225), El Paso (2,000), Texarkana (1,855), Port Arthur (1,750), Amarillo (1,280), Abilene (850), Beaumont (645), San Angelo (250), and Longview (200).

Earnings fall slightly for factory labor. Although factory employment showed a decisive gain, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that average earnings of Texas factory workers dropped slightly during June.

Weekly earnings dropped from $75.36 during May to $75.05 in June, as average hourly earnings dipped 2 cents in the month to a level of $1.77. The drop was in line with national averages, which declined from $76.30 to $76.11. Average earnings are still 3 cents an hour higher in Texas than at the same time last year.

Construction wages high in West Texas. A survey of journeyman pay scales involving 34 separate worker classifications in four major West Texas construction centers indicates that the average weekly pay check in several common labor divisions amounts to $96.66 or $5,026.32 a year.

TINA PIEDRAHITA

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Source: Texas Employment Commission in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Industry	Average weekly earnings			Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
	July 1955*	June 1955	July 1954	July 1955*	June 1955	July 1954	July 1955*	June 1955	July 1954
ALL MANUFACTURING	$76.38	$74.87	$72.69	42.2	42.3	41.3	$1.81	$1.77	$1.76
Durable goods	77.25	76.56	72.49	43.4	43.5	41.9	1.78	1.76	1.73
Primary metals	84.99	84.86	82.19	39.9	40.8	39.9	2.13	2.08	2.06
Machinery—except electrical	79.46	81.25	76.32	43.9	44.4	42.4	1.81	1.83	1.80
Oil field machinery	86.83	87.16	81.02	44.3	43.8	42.2	1.96	1.99	1.92
Transportation equipment	96.34	92.65	86.07	43.2	42.5	40.6	2.23	2.18	2.12
Fabricated metal products	76.50	75.15	72.41	45.0	45.0	44.7	1.70	1.67	1.62
Lumber and wood products	54.99	54.17	53.00	46.6	46.3	45.3	1.18	1.17	1.17
Furniture and fixtures	52.58	54.95	50.63	41.4	42.6	40.5	1.27	1.29	1.25
Stone, clay, and glass	70.52	69.36	63.99	43.8	43.9	42.1	1.61	1.58	1.52
Nondurable goods	75.62	73.16	72.27	41.1	41.1	40.6	1.84	1.78	1.78
Textile mill products	48.61	47.69	42.90	43.4	42.2	39.0	1.12	1.13	1.10
Broad woven goods	47.26	46.37	42.51	42.2	41.4	39.0	1.12	1.12	1.09
Apparel and fabric products	37.13	36.16	36.73	37.5	36.9	37.1	0.99	0.98	0.99
Food	68.69	65.26	65.52	43.2	43.8	42.0	1.59	1.49	1.56
Meat packing	82.06	77.30	74.93	42.3	40.9	41.4	1.94	1.89	1.81
Paper and allied products	85.19	78.75	78.14	44.6	42.8	44.4	1.91	1.84	1.76
Printing	82.64	82.39	81.20	38.8	38.5	38.3	2.13	2.14	2.12
Chemicals and allied products	93.24	91.14	86.68	42.0	42.0	42.7	2.22	2.17	2.03
Vegetable oil mills	51.30	53.95	50.54	45.8	48.6	48.6	1.12	1.11	1.04
Petroleum and coal products	101.40	100.04	97.20	40.4	40.5	40.5	2.51	2.47	2.40
Leather	38.68	38.58	40.20	38.3	38.2	40.2	1.01	1.01	1.00
NONMANUFACTURING									
Mining	97.68	96.14	96.73	44.4	43.9	45.2	2.20	2.19	2.14
Crude petroleum products	99.45	97.01	97.87	44.2	43.5	45.1	2.25	2.23	2.17
Sulfur	86.72	85.46	81.20	39.6	39.2	40.0	2.19	2.18	2.03
Public utilities	71.28	71.10	68.78	40.5	40.4	40.7	1.76	1.76	1.69
Retail trade	59.70	58.89	56.63	43.9	43.3	43.9	1.36	1.36	1.29
Wholesale trade	74.36	73.68	72.31	44.0	43.6	43.3	1.69	1.69	1.67

Figures do not cover proprietors, firm members, or other principal executives.

*Preliminary—subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

Local Business

City and item		July 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
ABILENE (pop. 55,000[r])				
Retail sales			— 3	+ 5
Department and apparel stores			+ 9	+ 2
Postal receipts	$	60,374	— 15	+ 3
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	1,668,166	+ 2	— 49
Bank debits (thousands)	$	65,719	— 2	+ 16
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	58,146	— 1	+ 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover		13.6	— 1	+ 7
Employment		27,950	x	+ 3
Manufacturing employment		3,180	— 1	— 2
Percent unemployed		4.9	+ 2	+ 7
ALPINE (pop. 5,261)				
Postal receipts	$	3,636	— 13	+ 16
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	22,000	+167	+175
Bank debits (thousands)	$	2,172	—	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	3,945	—	— 1
AMARILLO (pop. 108,034[r])				
Retail sales*			x	+ 8
Automotive stores*			+ 22	+ 26
Department and apparel stores			+ 4	+ 1
Food stores*			+ 2	— 10
Furniture and household appliance stores*			— 43	— 1
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 32	+ 13
Postal receipts	$	118,089	— 15	— 4
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	1,694,752	+ 23	+ 23
Bank debits (thousands)	$	154,243	x	+ 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	106,875	— 2	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover		17.2	+ 1	+ 6
Employment		45,050	+ 1	+ 3
Manufacturing employment		5,190	— 1	+ 10
Percent unemployed		5.2	— 9	— 9
ARLINGTON (pop. 7,692)				
Postal receipts	$	16,913	x	+ 22
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	2,430,402	+175	+111
Employment (area)		184,000	+ 1	+ 4
Manufacturing employment (area)		55,050	+ 1	+ 3
Percent unemployed (area)		4.7	— 6	— 10
AUSTIN (pop. 168,500[r])				
Retail sales			— 3	x
Automotive stores			— 8	— 2
Department and apparel stores			— 3	+ 4
Eating and drinking places			— 3	+ 3
Filling stations			— 5	— 6
Food stores			+ 18	+ 6
Furniture and household appliance stores			+ 22	— 4
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores			— 6	— 3
Postal receipts	$	211,858	— 6	— 12
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	2,598,554	— 38	+ 9
Bank debits (thousands)	$	127,372	— 8	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	116,433	x	+ 12
Annual rate of deposit turnover		13.1	— 9	— 2
Employment		65,500	x	+ 6
Manufacturing employment		4,650	+ 1	+ 9
Percent unemployed		3.9	+ 3	— 15
BAY CITY (pop. 14,042[r])				
Postal receipts	$	7,498	— 31	— 9
Bank debits (thousands)	$	9,077	— 4	—
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	15,842	x	—
Annual rate of deposit turnover		6.9	— 17	—

City and item		July 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
BAYTOWN (pop. 22,983)				
Postal receipts	$	15,767	— 18	+ 5
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	285,000	+ 99	+106
Bank debits (thousands)	$	16,845	+ 1	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	22,027	— 1	+ 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover		9.1	+ 2	— 1
Employment (area)		381,100	x	+ 6
Manufacturing employment (area)		84,700	+ 1	+ 5
Percent unemployed (area)		3.5	— 5	— 17
BEAUMONT (pop. 104,416[r])				
Retail sales*			— 7	+ 10
Automotive stores*			— 10	+ 30
Department and apparel stores			— 3	+ 1
Eating and drinking places*			— 1	— 11
Food stores*			+ 2	— 4
General merchandise stores*			— 2	+ 3
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 8	— 15
Postal receipts	$	76,571	— 11	— 6
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	473,282	— 19	— 9
Bank debits (thousands)	$	112,520	— 12	— 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	97,365	— 3	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover		13.7	— 12	— 6
Employment (area)		82,700	+ 1	+ 4
Manufacturing employment (area)		27,970	+ 3	+ 5
Percent unemployed (area)		6.2	— 11	— 10
BEEVILLE (pop. 10,500[r])				
Department and apparel store sales			+ 38	— 9
Postal receipts	$	6,520	— 25	— 7
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	201,101	+ 83	— 83
Bank debits (thousands)	$	7,094	+ 2	— 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	12,391	x	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover		6.9	+ 3	— 4
BIG SPRING (pop. 20,654[r])				
Retail sales			— 10	+ 41
Automotive stores			— 13	+104
Department and apparel stores			+ 8	— 2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores			— 12	— 28
Postal receipts	$	16,417	— 19	— 12
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	123,490	— 70	— 65
Bank debits (thousands)	$	24,816	+ 9	+ 21
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	23,151	— 5	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		12.5	+ 11	+ 21
BRENHAM (pop. 6,941)				
Postal receipts	$	5,251	— 29	— 17
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	52,477	+ 89	— 36
Bank debits (thousands)	$	5,313	— 8	— 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	12,275	— 3	+ 19
Annual rate of deposit turnover		5.1	— 15	— 23
BROWNWOOD (pop. 20,181)				
Retail sales			— 5	— 1
Automotive stores			— 17	+ 1
Department and apparel stores			+ 18	+ 6
Furniture and household appliance stores			+ 5	— 1
Postal receipts	$	16,665	— 17	+ 5
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	17,825	— 47	— 51
Bank debits (thousands)	$	9,723	— 8	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	13,556	— 2	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.5	— 9	+ 6

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

Conditions

City and item		July 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
BROWNSVILLE (pop. 36,066)				
Retail sales*			+ 5	+ 25
Automotive stores*			+ 4	+ 37
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 18	+ 39
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	122,095	— 58	+ 16
BRYAN (pop. 23,833[r])				
Retail sales*			— 3	x
Automotive stores*			— 13	+ 16
Department and apparel stores			+ 21	— 2
Food stores*			+ 2	— 25
Postal receipts	$	19,397	+ 11	+ 11
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	317,735	+ 58	— 31
CHILDRESS (pop. 7,619)				
Retail sales*			+ 2	+ 8
Automotive stores*			+ 19	+ 27
Department and apparel stores			+ 12	+ 11
Filling stations*			+ 10	+ 7
Food stores*			+ 3	+ 2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 9	— 5
Postal receipts	$	3,648	— 26	— 14
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	10,630	— 25	+ 12
CISCO (pop. 5,230)				
Postal receipts	$	3,777	— 11	+ 9
Bank debits (thousands)	$	2,304	x	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	4,177	+ 1	+ 10
Annual rate of deposit turnover		6.7	— 4	— 4
CORPUS CHRISTI (pop. 122,956[u])				
Retail sales			+ 1	+ 2
Apparel stores			— 5	+ 11
Automotive stores			— 6	+ 8
Department stores†			— 4	+ 6
Food stores			+ 37	— 4
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores			— 4	— 5
Postal receipts	$	120,861	— 13	— 1
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	3,006,321	— 31	— 7
Bank debits (thousands)	$	163,012	— 3	— 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	109,632	+ 5	— 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover		18.2	— 6	+ 8
Employment		63,000	+ 1	+ 2
Manufacturing employment		8,250	+ 2	+ 2
Percent unemployed		6.3	— 7	+ 7
CORSICANA (pop. 19,211)				
Department and apparel store sales			+ 12	+ 3
Postal receipts	$	19,008	+ 22	+ 49
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	130,302	— 71	+345
Bank debits (thousands)	$	14,787	+ 10	+ 20
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	22,339	+ 4	+ 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.0	+ 8	+ 13
DENISON (pop. 17,504)				
Retail sales			— 9	+ 13
Postal receipts	$	12,351	— 3	— 9
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	54,782	— 78	— 76
Bank debits (thousands)	$	13,620	+ 9	+ 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	15,799	— 2	— 16
Annual rate of deposit turnover		10.2	+ 21	+ 32

City and item		July 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
DALLAS (pop. 538,924[u])				
Retail sales*			— 1	+ 10
Apparel stores*			— 8	+ 4
Automotive stores*			— 4	+ 20
Department stores†			+ 3	+ 5
Drug stores*			— 4	+ 7
Eating and drinking places*			+ 3	— 2
Filling stations*			— 3	+ 25
Food stores*			+ 3	+ 1
Furniture and household appliance stores*			— 5	— 10
General merchandise stores*			+ 9	+ 15
Jewelry stores*			— 15	+ 22
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 3	+ 19
Office, store, and school supply dealers*			— 10	— 14
Postal receipts	$	1,405,722	— 10	— 5
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	12,761,092	— 8	x
Bank debits (thousands)	$	1,915,427	— 4	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	972,752	— 4	+ 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover		23.2	— 3	+ 1
Employment		313,300	x	+ 3
Manufacturing employment		78,175	x	+ 1
Percent unemployed		2.9	— 3	— 12
DEL RIO (pop. 14,211)				
Postal receipts	$	10,218	— 9	+ 4
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	98,908	— 17	— 74
Bank debits (thousands)	$	7,371	— 4	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	9,696	x	— 12
Annual rate of deposit turnover		9.1	+ 7	+ 17
DENTON (pop. 21,372)				
Postal receipts	$	21,165	x	x
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	191,800	— 22	+ 11
Bank debits (thousands)	$	13,500	— 11	+ 18
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	15,467	— 3	+ 13
Annual rate of deposit turnover		10.3	— 10	+ 4
EDINBURG (pop. 12,383)				
Postal receipts	$	8,578	— 9	— 15
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	49,690	— 63	+ 16
Bank debits (thousands)	$	10,961	+ 45	+ 42
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	7,423	+ 18	— 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover		19.2	+ 59	+ 63
EL PASO (pop. 182,505[r])				
Retail sales*			— 11	+ 12
Apparel stores*			+ 2	+ 6
Automotive stores*			— 13	+ 29
Department stores†			— 12	+ 9
Drug stores*			x	+ 7
General merchandise stores*			— 17	+ 6
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 21	+ 12
Postal receipts	$	180,877	— 7	— 7
Building permits, less federal contracts	$	4,168,057	+ 79	+ 28
Bank debits (thousands)	$	209,551	— 6	+ 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	129,714	x	+ 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover		19.4	— 7	+ 7
Employment		72,700	— 3	+ 2
Manufacturing employment		10,570	— 11	— 5
Percent unemployed		4.3	— 6	— 2

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
FORT WORTH (pop. 315,578[u])			
Retail sales*		+ 3	+ 10
Apparel stores*		+ 6	+ 3
Automotive stores*		+ 8	+ 22
Department stores†		0	+ 5
Drug stores*		+ 1	x
Eating and drinking places*		+ 4	— 4
Filling stations*		— 2	+ 30
Food stores*		+ 12	+ 22
Furniture and household appliance stores*		+ 3	— 12
General merchandise stores*		+ 1	+ 5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*		— 1	+ 8
Postal receipts	$ 487,785	— 11	+ 4
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 7,055,992	+ 62	+ 52
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 592,422	— 4	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 361,819	— 4	+ 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	19.3	— 4	— 1
Employment (area)	184,000	+ 1	+ 4
Manufacturing employment (area)	55,050	+ 1	+ 3
Percent unemployed (area)	4.7	— 6	— 10
GALVESTON (pop. 71,527[u])			
Retail sales		— 1	+ 6
Department and apparel stores		+ 3	— 3
Eating and drinking places		+ 1	— 8
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		— 9	— 3
Postal receipts	$ 64,497	— 16	— 6
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 686,418	+ 96	+170
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 79,985	+ 1	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 69,969	— 1	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.7	+ 2	+ 4
Employment (area)	46,050	+ 1	+ 3
Manufacturing employment (area)	11,720	+ 3	+ 11
Percent unemployed (area)	6.4	+ 5	— 7
GARLAND (pop. 10,571)			
Postal receipts	$ 10,472	— 22	— 11
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 1,408,298	+ 1	+ 98
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 12,568	— 10	+ 19
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 12,962	+ 17	+ 19
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.5	— 14	+ 8
Employment (area)	313,300	x	+ 3
Manufacturing employment (area)	78,175	x	+ 1
Percent unemployed (area)	2.9	— 3	— 12
GIDDINGS (pop. 2,532)			
Postal receipts	$ 2,584	x	— 4
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 1,671	— 7	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 4,086	— 2	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	4.8	— 8	+ 2
GLADEWATER (pop. 5,305)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,450	— 20	+ 12
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,740	— 1	— 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,910	— 1	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.4	— 1	— 7
Employment (area)	24,100	x	+ 1
Manufacturing employment (area)	3,940	+ 2	+ 1
Percent unemployed (area)	4.5	— 13	— 21
GOLDTHWAITE (pop. 1,566)			
Retail sales*		— 6	+ 8
Automotive stores*		— 17	+ 69
Filling stations*		— 2	+ 3
Postal receipts	$ 1,739	— 18	+ 3
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,255	— 29	— 18
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 2,915	— 8	— 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.9	— 26	— 10
GONZALES (5,659)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,789	+ 22	+ 80
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 21,050	+ 76	+150
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,526	+ 6	+ 17
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,100	— 1	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.8	+ 8	+ 14
GRAND PRAIRIE (pop. 14,594)			
Postal receipts	$ 15,608	— 7	+ 18
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 422,186	— 71	+ 62
Employment (area)	313,300	x	+ 3
Manufacturing employment (area)	78,175	x	+ 1
Percent unemployed (area)	2.9	— 3	— 12
GREENVILLE (pop. 17,500[r])			
Retail sales*		+ 4	+ 12
Department and apparel stores		+ 10	— 5
Food stores*		+ 2	+ 5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*		— 17	+ 17
Postal receipts	$ 16,186	— 4	+ 6
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 73,964	— 58	— 40
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 12,652	— 5	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 14,364	— 5	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.3	— 6	— 10
HARLINGEN (pop. 30,038[r])			
Postal receipts	$ 30,583	+ 6	+ 8
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 204,055	— 21	+ 23
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 54,993	+ 64	— 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 27,027	+ 28	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	27.4	+ 40	— 7
HENDERSON (pop. 6,833)			
Retail sales		— 9	+ 3
Automotive stores		— 11	+ 11
Department and apparel stores		— 12	— 8
Food stores		+ 1	— 12
Postal receipts	$ 7,924	— 18	+ 14
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 90,268	+ 46	— 14
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,042	+ 6	+ 28
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 13,489	+ 1	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.3	+ 7	+ 26
HOUSTON (pop. 700,508[u])			
Retail sales¶		— 7	+ 7
Apparel stores¶		+ 2	+ 2
Automotive stores¶		— 1	+ 37
Department stores†		— 1	+ 4
Drug stores¶		+ 2	+ 8
Eating and drinking places¶		— 4	+ 1
Filling stations¶		— 5	+ 16
Food stores¶		— 19	— 12
Furniture and household appliance stores¶		+ 14	+ 10
General merchandise stores¶		— 2	+ 7
Liquor stores¶		+ 3	+ 4
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores¶		— 19	— 6
Postal receipts	$ 934,549	— 12	— 4
Building permits, less federal contracts	$12,428,196	+ 1	— 2
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 1,890,693	— 6	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 1,173,472	+ 3	+ 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	19.7	— 7	+ 2
Employment (area)	381,100	x	+ 6
Manufacturing employment (area)	84,700	+ 1	+ 5
Percent unemployed (area)	3.5	— 5	— 17

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
JASPER (pop. 4,403)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 5	+ 3
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 19	+ 21
Food stores*	.....	+ 36	+ 29
General merchandise stores*	.....	— 7	— 32
Postal receipts	$ 4,612	— 3	+ 3
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,209	— 1	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,103	— 8	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.8	0	+ 3
KILGORE (pop. 9,638)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,951	— 34	— 25
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 111,901	+870	+ 48
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 14,452	x	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 15,224	x	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.4	+ 1	+ 4
Employment (area)	24,100	x	+ 1
Manufacturing employment (area)	3,940	+ 2	+ 1
Percent unemployed (area)	4.5	— 13	— 21
KILLEEN (pop. 21,076[r])			
Postal receipts	$ 24,431	— 14	— 8
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 510,825	+ 88	+ 55
Bank depits (thousands)	$ 8,120	+ 1	+ 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 5,575	— 5	— 45
Annual rate of deposit turnover	17.1	+ 3	+100
LAMESA (pop. 10,704)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,125	— 23	— 14
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 10,400	— 89	— 56
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,996	+ 2	+ 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 11,132	— 3	+ 18
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.5	+ 6	0
LAMPASAS (pop. 4,869)			
Retail sales*	.....	— 10	+ 8
Automotive stores*	.....	— 29	+ 2
Filling stations*	.....	+ 2	+ 4
Food stores*	.....	+ 10	— 8
Postal receipts	$ 3,368	— 19	— 6
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 60,250	— 27	+ 90
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,598	x	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,958	x	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.9	— 1	— 4
LAREDO (pop. 59,350[r])			
Postal receipts	$ 26,320	— 14	+ 4
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 29,030	— 49	+190
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 21,448	+ 1	+ 15
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 19,518	— 2	+ 12
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.1	— 1	+ 6
LEVELLAND (pop. 8,264)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,601	— 17	— 5
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,556	+ 1	+ 16
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 9,048	— 3	+ 15
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.5	+ 6	+ 1
LLANO (pop. 2,954)			
Postal receipts	$ 1,732	— 31	— 2
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 2,500	.....	.....
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,643	+ 25	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,359	— 8	— 11
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.3	+ 26	+ 11
LOCKHART (pop. 5,573)			
Department and apparel store sales	.....	+ 2	+ 11
Postal receipts	$ 2,904	— 30	— 23
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 29,750	+ 94	+ 39
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,599	+ 18	+ 20
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 4,641	+ 4	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.5	+ 17	+ 20
LONGVIEW (pop. 34,328[r])			
Postal receipts	$ 27,404	— 16	+ 5
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 607,125	+ 41	+220
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 34,255	+ 1	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 35,776	— 1	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.4	+ 3	+ 5
Employment (area)	24,100	x	+ 1
Manufacturing employment (area)	3,940	+ 2	+ 1
Percent unemployed (area)	4.5	— 13	— 21
LUBBOCK (pop. 117,886[r])			
Retail sales	.....	— 26	+ 20
Automotive stores	.....	— 33	+ 16
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 2	+ 52
Furniture and household appliance stores	.....	— 43	— 6
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	.....	— 5	+ 14
Postal receipts	$ 87,143	— 4	+ 14
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 2,759,180	+ 8	+ 41
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 115,636	— 6	+ 17
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 91,685	— 4	+ 18
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.8	— 4	+ 3
Employment	42,150	x	+ 6
Manufacturing employment	4,400	x	+ 15
Percent unemployed	4.3	0	— 10
LUFKIN (pop. 15,135)			
Postal receipts	$ 14,202	— 20	+ 3
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 148,150	— 61	— 34
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 18,196	— 18	+ 18
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 21,359	— 1	— 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.2	— 12	+ 31
McALLEN (pop. 25,326[r])			
Retail sales	.....	— 9	+ 24
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 6	+ 20
Postal receipts	$ 16,662	— 14	— 4
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 183,200	— 53	+150
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 20,904	+ 14	.....
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 17,165	+ 1	.....
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.7	+ 18	.....
McKINNEY (pop. 10,560)			
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 18,738	— 72	— 70
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,723	— 10	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,877	+ 1	— 10
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.4	— 4	+ 12
MARLIN (pop. 7,099)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,079	— 20	— 10
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 20,150	— 28	— 2
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,300	— 3	+ 52
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 5,583	— 2	+ 37
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.1	.....	+ 14
MARSHALL (pop. 25,479[r])			
Department and apparel store sales	.....	— 12	— 2
Postal receipts	$ 18,130	— 4	+ 19
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 141,978	— 18	x
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 14,892	+ 2	+ 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 20,471	+ 1	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.8	+ 5	+ 13
MERCEDES (pop. 10,081)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,350	— 40	+ 5
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 1,995	— 83	+ 11
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,651	+ 17	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,187	+ 29	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	16.7	+ 14	+ 13

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
MONAHANS (pop. 6,311)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,196	.....	— 32
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 61,950	— 29	+ 97
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,448	+ 6	+ 19
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,806	— 15	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.1	+ 12	— 2
NACOGDOCHES (pop. 12,327)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,239	— 22	— 4
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 131,350	+ 40	+230
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 10,809	+ 2	+ 21
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 14,654	+ 1	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.9	+ 2	+ 22
NAVASOTA (pop. 5,188)			
Retail sales*	.....	— 4	— 12
Food sales*	.....	+ 7	x
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	+ 49	+ 2
Postal receipts	$ 3,710	— 19	— 19
NEW BRAUNFELS (pop. 12,210)			
Postal receipts	$ 10,510	— 17	+ 9
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 101,665	— 40	— 22
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,936	+ 5	+ 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,502	— 1	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.0	+ 5	— 2
ODESSA (pop. 50,807r)			
Retail sales	.....	— 5	+ 6
Postal receipts	$ 37,863	— 20	— 1
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 2,560,370	+ 33	+110
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 41,435	— 6	+ 16
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 31,260	+ 4	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	16.2	+ 7	+ 22
ORANGE (pop. 21,174)			
Postal receipts	$ 15,147	— 9	+ 2
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 387,912	+ 44	+ 84
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 20,709	— 1	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 23,218	x	— 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.7	0	+ 6
PALESTINE (pop. 15,063r)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,210	— 22	— 15
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 98,275	— 23	+ 44
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,197	+ 1	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 13,124	+ 5	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.8	+ 2	+ 7
PAMPA (pop. 20,448r)			
Postal receipts	$ 13,216	— 30	— 5
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 328,000	+100	— 5
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 15,374	+ 1	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 20,772	— 1	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.9	+ 1	+ 1
PARIS (pop. 21,643)			
Retail sales	.....	— 15	+ 20
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 2	+ 3
Postal receipts	$ 14,625	— 2	+ 3
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 108,525	+ 36	— 17
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 12,930	+ 9	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 13,853	+ 9	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.7	+ 9	+ 6
PHARR (pop. 8,690)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,305	— 12	+ 14
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,192	+ 13	+ 60
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,298	+ 1	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.3	+ 15	+ 61
PLAINVIEW (pop. 14,044)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 25	+ 6
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 15	+ 2
Postal receipts	$ 11,325	— 36	— 6
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 238,000	+ 49	— 19
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 15,961	+ 2	+ 12
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 21,849	— 4	+ 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.6	+ 8	+ 2
ROCKDALE (pop. 4,550r)			
Postal receipts	$ 3,869	— 17	— 11
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 37,800	— 70	— 40
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,819	x	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 4,040	— 14	+ 15
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.5	— 3	— 17
SAN ANGELO (pop. 62,359r)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 7	— 4
Department and apparel stores	.....	+112	+ 43
Postal receipts	$ 48,235	— 11	— 1
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 452,808	— 2	— 26
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 42,988	— 5	+ 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 45,604	— 3	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.2	— 3	+ 3
Employment	22,500	— 1	+ 2
Manufacturing employment	2,970	— 7	+ 4
Percent unemployed	5.3	+ 6	— 2
SAN ANTONIO (pop. 449,251u)			
Retail sales*	.....	— 6	+ 1
Apparel stores*	.....	— 2	+ 1
Automotive stores*	.....	— 6	+ 32
Department stores†	.....	— 4	+ 2
Drug stores*	.....	+ 3	+ 2
Eating and drinking places*	.....	+ 7	— 3
Filling stations*	.....	— 6	+ 9
Food stores*	.....	— 17	— 15
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	— 8	— 4
General merchandise stores*	.....	— 1	+ 2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	— 13	— 14
Postal receipts	$ 506,170	— 4	+ 3
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 4,873,118	— 14	+ 33
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 451,672	— 5	+ 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 328,181	— 1	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	16.4	— 4	+ 4
Employment	180,300	x	+ 2
Manufacturing employment	22,375	x	+ 10
Percent unemployed	5.6	— 5	— 26
SAN MARCOS (pop. 9,980)			
Postal receipts	$ 9,721	— 9	x
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 126,605	— 46	— 25
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,202	x	+ 21
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 8,345	— 1	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.9	+ 2	+ 20
SEGUIN (pop. 14,000r)			
Postal receipts	$ 7,964	— 10	— 10
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 331,400	+480	+460
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,701	.....	+ 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 15,214	.....	— 9
SLATON (pop. 5,036)			
Postal receipts	$ 2,745	— 2	+ 30
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 30,035	— 20	+230
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 1,884	+ 3	.....
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,637	— 3	.....
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.1	.....	.....

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from June 1955	Percent change: July 1955 from July 1954
SHERMAN (pop. 25,855r)			
Retail sales		— 6	+ 6
Department and apparel stores		— 6	+ 4
Furniture and household appliance stores		— 13	+ 1
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		+ 14	+ 17
Postal receipts	$ 23,159	— 17	+ 10
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 218,723	— 25	+ 38
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 28,498	— 3	+ 12
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 17,642	— 3	+ 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover	19.1	— 2	+ 2
SULPHUR SPRINGS (pop. 9,890r)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,652	— 20	— 2
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 115,500	+ 48	— 48
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,658	— 10	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,162	— 1	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.8	— 7	+ 13
SWEETWATER (pop. 13,619)			
Postal receipts	$ 9,678	— 14	+ 19
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 354,900	+390	+130
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 8,367	— 2	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,257	— 1	+ 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.7	0	— 20
TAYLOR (pop. 9,701)			
Retail sales		— 9	+ 23
Postal receipts	$ 6,269	— 13	— 6
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 51,880	— 55	— 38
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,011	+ 13	— 25
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 12,260	+ 1	— 13
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.9	+ 19	— 13
TEMPLE (pop. 33,912r)			
Retail sales		— 4	— 6
Department and apparel stores		— 11	+ 2
Drug stores		+ 3	+ 3
Eating and drinking places		+ 1	— 10
Food stores		+ 6	+ 1
Furniture and household appliance stores		— 20	— 22
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		— 2	+ 1
Postal receipts	$ 24,474	— 6	— 11
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 179,500	— 29	— 47
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 21,388	+ 10	+ 21
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 23,474	x	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.9	+ 17	+ 28
TEXARKANA (pop. 24,753)			
Retail sales§		— 7	+ 23
Automotive stores§		— 9	+ 51
Postal receipts§	$ 43,935	— 11	+ 3
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 102,326	— 35	— 27
Bank debits (thousands)§	$ 88,164	— 1	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 17,363	— 1	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.2	0	+ 3
Employment§	35,600	+ 2	+ 5
Manufacturing employment§	5,830	+ 5	+ 7
Percent unemployed§	7.0	— 7	— 40
TEXAS CITY (pop. 23,000r)			
Postal receipts	$ 14,206	— 6	+ 5
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 359,510	+ 31	+ 15
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 24,848	— 3	— 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 25,440	— 6	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.4	+ 2	— 7
Employment (area)	46,050	+ 1	+ 3
Manufacturing employment (area)	11,720	+ 3	+ 11
Percent unemployed (area)	6.4	+ 5	— 7
TYLER (pop. 49,443r)			
Department and apparel store sales		+ 6	+ 20
Postal receipts	$ 48,676	— 17	— 7
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 1,529,770	+ 2	+154
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 72,537	+ 3	+ 18
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 57,154	— 2	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.1	+ 3	+ 18
VICTORIA (pop. 16,126)			
Retail sales*		+ 3	+ 15
Automotive stores*		+ 10	+ 57
Department and apparel stores		— 16	— 10
Eating and drinking places*		x	— 8
Filling stations*		+ 2	— 1
Food stores*		+ 6	— 14
Furniture and household appliance stores*		— 10	+ 9
General merchandise stores*		— 17	+ 1
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*		— 9	+ 21
Postal receipts	$ 21,796	— 16	+ 7
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 217,483	— 66	.....
WACO (pop. 101,824r)			
Retail sales		— 2	+ 10
Apparel stores		+ 14	+ 2
Department stores†		+ 2	+ 9
Furniture and household appliance stores		+ 23	+ 32
Postal receipts	$ 100,730	— 13	x
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 2,113,015	+138	+ 4
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 85,355	+ 2	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 66,377	x	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.5	+ 3	+ 3
Employment	46,950	+ 1	+ 5
Manufacturing employment	8,740	— 1	+ 3
Percent unemployed	5.2	— 15	— 17
WEATHERFORD (pop. 8,093r)			
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 32,500	+ 12	— 68
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 9,277	— 4	— 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 13,733	+ 8	+ 58
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.4	— 19	.....
WICHITA FALLS (pop. 103,192r)			
Retail sales		— 11	+ 28
Automotive stores		— 13	+ 55
Department and apparel stores		— 7	— 7
Postal receipts	$ 76,501	— 16	x
Building permits, less federal contracts	$ 1,534,134	+ 76	+ 8
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 93,636	— 5	+ 12
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 104,173	— 1	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.7	— 5	+ 11
Employment	36,300	+ 1	+ 4
Manufacturing employment	3,475	x	+ 4
Percent unemployed	4.4	— 2	— 17

x Change is less than one-half of one percent.
* Preliminary.
† Reported by the Federal Reserve Board of Dallas.
‡ Money on deposit at the end of the month, but excludes deposits to the credit of banks.
¶ Reported by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Houston.
§ Figures include Texarkana, Arkansas (pop. 15,875) and Texarkana, Texas (pop. 24,753).
r Revised for use by Texas Highway Department.
u 1950 Urbanized Census.

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

	July 1955	June 1955	May 1955	Year-to-date average 1955	Average month 1954
GENERAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY					
†Index of Texas Business Activity (100.0)	165*	168*	169*	169	163
Index of bank debits	192	200	205	196	177
Index of bank debits in the United States	168	174	173	169	160
Income payments to individuals in the United States (billions—seasonally adjusted at an annual rate)	.....	$ 301.2*	$ 301.4	$ 297.1	$ 287.6
Index of wholesale prices in the United States, unadjusted	110.6	110.3	110.5	110.3	110.3
Index of consumers' prices in the United States, unadjusted	114.7	114.4	114.2	114.3	114.8
‡Index of consumers' prices in Houston, unadjusted	.....	.....	115.5	115.6	116.7
Index of postal receipts	207	232	228	214	174
†Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in the Southwestern District (10.0)	95	97	95	95	93
Corporation charters issued (number)	.....	499	334	472	345
Business failures (number)	.....	18	13	15	20
†Index of ordinary life insurance sales, adjusted for price changes (4.2)	201	215	201	210	172
Index of ordinary life insurance sales	230	246	230	240	197
Index of ordinary life insurance sales in the West South Central states	226	245	233	233	192
Index of ordinary life insurance sales in the United States	198	216	202	200	170
TRADE					
†Index of total retail sales, adjusted for price changes (46.8)	158*	158*	156	156	143
Index of total retail sales	176*	176*	173	174	160
Durable-goods stores	181*	200*	188	188	162
Nondurable-goods stores	173*	164*	166	166	159
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	60.6	62.0	62.8	62.8	63.0
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	42.0	38.3	38.6	39.0	39.1
PRODUCTION					
†Index of industrial electric power consumption (14.6)	254*	264*	263*	269	238
†Index of crude runs to stills (3.9)	135	136	138	139	127
†Index of construction authorized, adjusted for price changes (9.4)	146*	146*	180*	159	141
Index of construction authorized	198*	198*	243*	214	186
†Index of crude petroleum production (8.1)	119*	121*	124*	127	117
Index of southern pine production, unadjusted, 1935–39=100	.....	128	130	123	117
Index of gasoline consumption	.....	184	167	177	173
Index of industrial production in the United States	140*	139	138	136	125
†Index of total electric power consumption (3.0)	258*	256*	255*	257	256
Construction contracts awarded (thousands)	$154,907	$116,332	$151,223	$131,169	$111,196
Index of dairy products manufactured	.....	170	151	167	153
Index of natural gas production	.....	172	176	173	169
AGRICULTURE					
Index of prices received by farmers, unadjusted, 1909–14=100	257	263	260	264	265
Index of prices paid by farmers in the United States, parity index—unadjusted, 1910–14=100	281	282	282	283	281
Ratio of Texas farm prices received to U.S. prices paid by farmers	91	93	92	93	94
Index of prices received by farmers—livestock, unadjusted, 1909–14=100	266	275	267	277	284
Index of prices received by farmers—all crops, unadjusted, 1909–14=100	251	253	255	253	251
Index of farm cash income, unadjusted	76*	58*	61*	67	98
FINANCE					
Loans, reporting member banks in the Dallas district (millions)	$ 2,270	$ 2,239	$ 2,211	$ 2,190	$ 1,950
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in the Dallas district (millions)	$ 3,756	$ 3,675	$ 3,728	$ 3,691	$ 3,494
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in the Dallas district (millions)	$ 2,626	$ 2,649	$ 2,740	$ 2,677	$ 2,552
Bank debits in 20 cities (millions)	$ 6,299	$ 6,602	$ 6,475	$ 6,378	$ 5,849
Revenue receipts of the State Comptroller (thousands)	$ 71,843	$ 62,175	$108,926	$ 75,390	$ 62,930
Federal Internal Revenue Collections (thousands)	$101,222	$321,234	$235,689	$227,896	$183,604
LABOR					
Total nonagricultural employment (thousands)	2,257.5*	2,263.8	2,238.7	2,227.0	2,189.6
Total manufacturing employment (thousands)	435.2*	439.7	431.8	428.7	424.8
Durable-goods employment (thousands)	207.7*	207.4	204.1	201.9	199.7
Nondurable-goods employment (thousands)	227.5*	232.3	227.7	226.9	225.2

All figures are for Texas unless otherwise indicated. All indexes are based on the average months for 1947–49, except where indicated and are adjusted for seasonal variation, except annual indexes.

Employment estimates have been adjusted to first quarter 1954 benchmarks.

*Preliminary.

†The index of business activity is a weighted average of the indexes indicated by a dagger (†). The weight given each index in computing the composite is given in parentheses.

‡Index computed for February, May, August, and November only.